THE LIFE AND WORK
OF
BENGAL ZEMINDARS

BY

R. VENKOBA RAO, M. E. I. A (London)

JOURNALIST, SRIRANGAM.

WITH A FOREWORD BY

THE HON'BLE THE RAJA OF PANAGAL.

VOL I

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PREFACE.

I HAVE tried to present to the reader in a compact form the histories of the leading Zemindaries of Bengal Bengal is the premier Zemindari province in the country and, in fact, the stimulating history of Bengal for the last two centuries and more is the history of the various Zemindari Houses whose founders did not a little to promote not only the well-being of the province, but also greatly helped in consolidating the British Power which in its turn has ensured the integrity and the independence of the Zemindaries

It has not been possible to make the sketches more detailed, but, as they are, they will, I trust, give the reader a fair idea of what the great Houses of Bengal have done to add to the name and fame of the Province. If this attempt of mine is lucky enough to merit the encouragement and patronage of the Zemindars and the general public, I propose to bring out in a more ampilfied form the history of the Zemindaries

I should express my obligations to the Zemindars and Scions of the Noble Houses of Bengal who have assisted me in the bringing out of this volume

I am specially grateful to the Hon the Raja of Panagal, Chief Minister, Madras for his 'Foreword' to the book. I cannot expect to launch my literary effort under more encouraging or distinguished auspices.

SRIRANGAM, TRICHINOPOLY.
1st August, 1925

R. VENKOBA ROW.

FOREWORD.

I HAVE no hesitation to welcome Mr. Venkoba Rao's literary venture Mr. Rao seems to have inherited from his fair-minded uncle, Rao Sahib S M. Raja Ram Rao, the Editor of the "Wednesday Review" and the 'Feudatory and Zemindari India', his faith in and friendship to the Indian artistocracy In a series of biographical sketches, he gives a sympathetic account of the landed artistocracy of Bengal. The family particulars of almost every zamindari of importance seem to find a place in this account. The publication of the work is most opportune and serves a useful purpose. It enables the present Zemindars to have an idea of the greatness of their ancestors and gives the public an opportunity of judging the individual merits of the Zamindars.

Despite the existence of philanthropic and businesslike Zemindars like the Maharajah of Kasimbazar, the Rajah of Nashipur, Raja Rishi Case Law, Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri etc, there is no doubt that the present generation cannot stand comparison with their forefathers What a fall there has been! Regrettable it may be and yet, it is a fact that the importance of the Zemindars in the country is now-a-days rapidly going down In fact, the Zemindars are treated as though they are the remnants of an ancient institution awaiting clearance. This treatment, I dare

say, is due no less to the indifference and lack of enterprise on the part of a large section of Zamindars than to the general democratic tendency of the times. The ancestors of the present Zamindars were in many instances, Chiefs exercising sovereign or semi-sovereign powers in the areas in which they lived They had excellent training as sportsmen and scholars and even as politicians. They were in their time a power, the only power in the country They lacked neither in sagacity nor in statesmanship Many of them had a literary turn of mind and were great patrons of learning. On the whole it cannot be denied that they played a conspicuous part in the history of mediaeval India

To-day, their progeny as a class are getting degenerated The reason for this degeneration is perhaps attributable to the circumstances, (1) that they are above want and (2) that they have no suitable careers except the management of their own estates The management of their estates is generally left to paid agency and they themselves spend their time in the luxury of indolence, with the result that the estates are getting poorer and poorer, generation after generation. We have instances of important Zamindaris becoming heavily encumbered. Are the Zamindars of the present generation prepared to allow this state of things to continue? If they are, they will not only see their end in no time but inflict a serious wrong upon the country in general. The landed artistocracy has done a great deal in improving the condition of life in the country. He who reads the pages of Mr Venkoba Rao's handiwork will not fail to be struck with the philanthropic

activities of the Zamindars. Every town of importance in Bengal has its own useful institutions which owe their existence and continuance to the munificence of of the Bengali Zamindars Do away with the Zamindars, I am sure most of these institutions will disappear. Is it not therefore right that the Zamindars should be awakened to a sense of their duty to themselves and to their country and turn a new leaf in their life?

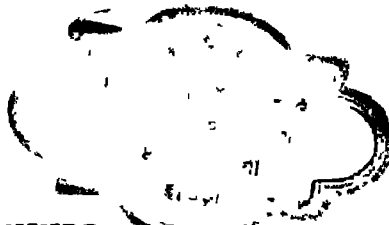
After the introduction of the democratic principle in the constitution they cannot have that feeling of security for being above want which they had under the old order of things nor can they any longer excuse themselves that they have no suitable careers Now that political privileges are conceded to the people of the country, it is time for the Zamindars to make an effort and come forward as natural leaders of the people Let them qualify themselves to lead the people and there is the certainty of their being recognised as leaders If the Zamindars do not take this opportunity, they are sure to be thrown in the background. We want more of Dharbangas, Bardwans and Muhammadabads Are not these most appropriately filling important places under the Reformed Constitution?

I hope and trust a comparative study of the lives of the Bengal Zamindars will open the eyes of the average Zamindar to his sense of duty. Mr Venkoba Rao has done a real service not only to the landed artistocracy of Bengal but to the Zamindars as a class He has enabled them to see how they are losing their importance in the country and how the few that are justifying

their existence deserve to be held in high esteem by the people. In conclusion, may I not entertain the hope that Mr. Venkoba Rao will show his own Province the courtesy he has shown to the Province of Bengal, by publishing the life and work of Madras Zamindars?

RAMARAYANINGAR,
THE RAJAH OF PANAGAL.

MADRAS
29th July, 25.

MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY, K.C.I.E.
MAHARAJA OF KASIMBAZAR

MAHARAJA SIR MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY

K. C. I. E.

MAHARAJA OF CAZIMBAZAAR

MAHARAJA MANINDRA CHANDRA NANDY was born in 1860 A chain of misfortunes befell him while very young, for he lost his mother, when he was barely two years old, his father when he was twelve years old, his elder brother in his thirteenth year Illness of a serious type, at the comparatively young age of fourteen, stood in his way of obtaining school education When change of air and the best of medical treatment recruited his health, he improved his knowledge by private study Persuant to the promise held out to Maharani Sarnameyee, the Government of India conferred the title of "Maharaja" on Manindra Chandra Nandy on the 30th May 1898 In respect of education, he is a great benefactor to his country and generous patron of education. He maintains a first grade College at Berhampore, called the "Berhampore Krishnath College" at an annual expense of Rs 60,000 Several boardings and a number of messes attached to the College and College school are maintained at an annual expenditure of Rs 15,000 Owing to influx of students from different parts of Bengal, additions had to be made to the old College building at an enormous cost For the accommodation of the College school students the Hon'ble the Maharaja spent about Rs 1 50,000 and a large building was constructed on the site which had been transferred by the Government free of revenue to the College authorities He entertained a sincere desire of establishing a thoroughly equipped Techinical College and he correspon-ded with the Government of Bengal on the above subject He has now been able to open at a large expense a Commerce

Department of the above College with an efficient staff and has obtained recognition of the Calcutta University for it and also secured a Government aid. He established in Calcutta a Polytechnic Institute and a School of Mines at Ethora. Besides the above institutions the following Higher class and the Middle class English schools are maintained by him at a minimum annual cost of Rs. 60,000 (H. E Schools at Beldanga, Saidabad, Saktipur, Jabagram, Mathrun, Brahmacharyya Vidyalaya at Ranchi, Kamargaon, Habaspur, Hashanpur, Belka, Sris Chandra Institution at Ethora, and M E Schools at Srisgunj, Kamarparch and Panchgram) where the children of his tenants receive education at a nominal fee He contributed Rs 5,000 to Daulatpur College Rs 5,000 for Library at Navadwip, Rs 50,000 for Rangpur College Rs 5,000 for the Puri Veda Vidyalaya and to the Charitable Dispensary of Berhampore. He contributed 2 lacs to the funds raised for the Benares Hindu University and another sum of two lacs for the Bose Institute, Calcutta. At his own expense, he has sent out students to England, Japan, America and Australia and other parts of the world to do research work and learn industries The Association for the Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians, the National College, the Bengal Technical Institution, the Deaf and Dumb School, the School for Blind Children, the Mahakali Pathshala in Calcutta and at Berhampore and Sanskrit Toles (schools) and almost all charitable institutions count him among their patrons He pays the fees of fifty pupils of the the Sanskrit College and more than Rs 2,000 every year to the poor students sitting for University Examinations More than hundred and fifty students are provided with free boarding and lodging at Berhampore, Mathrun and Calcutta. For the encouragement of artisans and agriculturists, he holds an annual exhibition at the Banjetia Gardens, Kasimbazar, the entire expenses in

connection therewith being borne by him. He is the foremost patron of Bengali literature. He has engaged Pundits for editing the great Baisnab Granthas and Babu Jajneswar Bannerjee has been preparing the most valuable work viz:—the History of the Civilisation of the World under his patronage, and Babu Lalit Mohan Banerji, B A., and Babu Radhakamal Mukkerji, M A, for editing *Baisnab Magazine* and *Upasana* respectively The site on which the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad building stands and the site where Ramesh Bhaban is going to be built is a gift by the Maharaja The Shahitya Sammilan for promoting the advancement of the Bengali language and literature was first held in 1910, under his auspices at the Kasimbazar Rajbari For educational progress alone he spends a lac and fifty thousand rupees annually and two lacs for other charitable purposes He contributed Rs 15,000 for constructing the Albert Victor Hospital at Belgachia He established the Curzon Charitable Hospital at Kasimbazar and a Dispensary at Mathrun and maintains a similar institution at Ulipore, founded by his aunt and predecessor, Maharani Surnamoyee M. I O. C I The Water Works at Berhampore inagurated by the late Maharani Surnamoyee were completed by him. He carefully managed his estates which are scattered in 13 of the districts of Bengal and the United Provinces as well as the six Trust Estates in Sribati, Malda, Khulna, Berhampore. City Murshidabad and Gaya Prompted by his generous nature the Maharaja took over the management of these heavily encumbered estates with a view to relieve their proprietors of their embarrasment and supplied funds from his own Treasury for the liquidation of their respective debts He worked very hard as Chairman of the Berhampore Municipality for more than 15 years, and has held the important offices of such influential bodies as the British Indian Association, the Bengal Landholders' Association, the Bengal

National Chamber of Commerce and the Murshidabad Association When the right of nominating a representative to the Bengal Council was conferred on the British Indian Association the Maharaja had the honour of being nominated as such He was again elected to the Bengal Council as representative of Bengal landlords Afterwards he was elected twice by his fellow zamindars to the Imperial Council in the year 1915 After the inauguration of the Reforms he was elected by the zemindar electorate to the Council of State and there he has been doing his duties conscientiously In the middle of 1914 he contributed Rs 6,000 towards the medical College and Hospital for Women and the Nurses Training Institute at Delhi in memory of the late Lady Hardinge who had initiated the scheme Among the conferees of the Birth Day Honours in June 1915 he won the well-merited distinction of K C I E Numerous acts of munificence and usefulness distinguish the career of Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandy, K C I E. He leads an exemplery life and is in every way worthy on the trust reposed in him by the Government as well as by the people.

As soon as the Great World-War was declared people of India impelled by inherent loyalty to the British Throne espoused the cause of the Empire and volunteered their services with a view to be helpful in acheiving success of the Allied cause Self-sacrificing spirit pervaded the whole country and every one seemed extremely eager to avail of this opportunity to do his or her duty to His Imperial Majesty who for the cause of justice and humanity launched into this ruinous and devastating war. Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandy did his share of works in connection there with enthusiastically and sympathetically He himself organised measures for raising funds for ensuring the success of the cause and contributed according to his might handsome amounts towards the same and others inaugurated in other parts of the country by Government officials and private parties

For affording relief to the disabled soldiers in the field he and the members of his family paid for several units From August 1915 to November 1918, that is for forty months, he and his noble consort, the Maharani, Kasimbazar made a regular monthly contribution towards the Lady Carmichael Bengal Women's War Fund He was associated with the movement in connection with the organisation of the Bengal Volunteer Ambulance Corps and contributed a very big lump sum towards the fund raised for the same He made a liberal donation in aid of the organisation of the Calcutta University Corps Maharani, Kasimbazar took lively interest in the splendid work done by the National Indian Association, Calcutta Ladies' Branch and made a generous contribution towards the same The movements inaugurated by the Young Men's Christian Association and ladies of Assansol and Dissergarh districts in connection with War Charity Funds received his full sympathy and he paid handsome donation towards each movement. In response to the appeal made by the organisers of the Imperial Relief Fund, Bengal Branch he contributed several thousand rupees to the above Fund Their Imperial Majesties' Silver Wedding Fund was devoted to the relief of disabled soldiers and the Maharaja as a loyal and devoted subject paid his proper share of contribution towards the Fund raised on this auspicious occasion Two Motor cars were made over to the Military authorities in India with a request to send the same to the Field of Action He purchased Government War Bonds to the value of one lac and thirty thousand In connection with recruitment of soldiers the Maharaja in addition to help rendered in various ways persuaded his tenants to enlist themselves as soldiers by offering to remit one fourth of the annual rent payable in respect of lands occupied and cultivated by them.

RAJA BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA BAHADUR, B A

OF NASHIPUR

MAHARAJA DEVI SINHA BAHADUR was the founder of the Nashipur family which flourished in the eighteenth century He was descended from a long line of Rajahs One of the ancestors of the family Sambhunath, was, under the Emperor of Delhi, Nazim of the whole tract of country from Saharanpur to Meerut, and another Bardi Dass, had a body-guard, who joined Col Burn in the battle of Shamli and received Rs 20,000 a month from the East India Company as pay of his horsemen Maharajah Devi Sinha rendered important services to Lord Clive at the battle of Plassey and held high offices of trusts and responsibility under the East India Company in connection with the land Settlement of Bengal, and he was also Secretary to the Provincial Council The office of Dewanship too of the whole Bengal; Behar and Orissa, was conferred on him under the Company

He died childless and was succeeded by his only brother, Rajah Bahadur Sinha Bahadur At the time of the latter's death, he left three sons, of whom Kumar Hanumunt Sinha was the eldest, Rajah Udmunt Sinha Bahadur, the second, and Janakiram, the youngest Kumar Hanumunt Sinha died a few months after his father's death, leaving an infant son, Rajah Kissen Chand Bahadur Kumar Hanumunt could not assume the title of Rajah Bahadur, just after his father's demise, as it was against the custom to perform any act of rejoicing during the mourning period Rajah Udmunt Sinha, suppressing the fact of the very existence of his nephew, Kissen Chand, represented to Government that he was the head of the family then, and, with the approval of the Government, assumed the title of Rajah Bahadur But when Rajah Udmunt Sinha died, Rajah Kissen Chand, a

RAJA BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA, B A BAHADUR
OF NASHIPUR

major, bore the title of "Rajah Bahadur." After that, his son, Rajah Kirtee Chand Bahadurs being thd eldest member, was allowed to assume his father's title The Nashipur House had the privilege of maintaining troops which joined the British army against the Rajah of Rewa The family also enjoyed the high privilege of having a Muktear in the Court of the East India Company

Maharajah Ranajit Sinha, son of Rajah Kirtee Chand Bahadhur was brought up in his infancy under the Court of Wards at Berhampore. He was Chairman of the Murshidabad Municipality for twelve years, a member of the District Board for fifteen years, and a First Class Independent Honorary Magistrate with summary powers In January 1899 he was nominated by the Goverment a member of the Bengal Legislative Council, and was elected in 1913 as an Additional Member of the Bengal as well as the Imperial Legislative Council

On the 1st January 1891, the distinction of "Rajah" was conferred upon him and Sir Charles Elliot, presenting the sanad said —"It is a very great pleasure to me to convey to you the sanad of the title of ' Rajah" which the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you The title is one which had been honourably borne by your family for many generations and it is now committed to you to hold it untarnished One of your ancestors, Rajah Devi Sinha, rendered very valuable services to Clive at Plassey, and the continued favour in which your family has been held and the honour, which is to day entrusted to you is a proof that the Government of India never slow to recognise and never forgets services rendered to it by the houses in this country I trust you will manage your estate in a manner worthy of your ancestry, and that your career may compare favourably with that of other Zaminders in the Province, and that it will be so distinguished that further honours will be conferred

upon you, not on account of the good work of those who have gone before you, but as a reward for your own merit and exertions"

He was created a "Rajah Bahadur" in 1897, and when the title was conferred on him, Sir Charles Stewart observed –

"Rajah, you are a scion of a very ancient and respectable family and the proprietor of extensive zemindaries, and have conducted yourself in a manner worthy of your origin and of your rank and responsibilities, ;you have the reputation of being a good and liberal landlord to your own ryots, but your desire to do good service to the public has led you to enter a more extended sphere of usefulness As a Municipal Commissioner and an Honorary Magistrate, you have rendered great assistance to the local authorities it has been deemed just and proper that you should be raised to the dignity which your father enjoyed You have, therefore, been created a "Rajah Bahadur," and it gives me great satisfaction to hand you the sanad and the Khilat which mark your elevation to that rank "

In 1910 the Government was pleased to confer on him the personal title of "Maharajah", which his forefather, Maharaja Devi Sinha Bahadur, had once enjoyed On the occasion of the presentation of the sanad and Khilat to him Sir Edward Norman Baker, K C S I, spoke as follows —

"The family of which you are the head, is both old and distinguished and one member of it enjoyed the title of Maharajah as long ago as the year 1800, more than a century ago Twice already you yourself have received marks of the favour of Government, once in 1892 and again in 1997; and it gives me peculiar pleasure now to hand you the sanad of the still higher title of " Maharajah", together with the Khilat which accompanies it.

THE HON'BLE MAHARAJA RANJIT SINHA BAHADUR
OF NASHIPUR

Born 9th June 186[illegible]. Died 3rd May 1918.

The honourable distinction you have worthily earned, not merely by service in a variety of public offices, as Chairman of the Murshidabad municipality, as an Honorary Magistrate, as Member of the Legislative Council and the like, but still more by the loyal and devoted spirit which you have invariably displayed in times of difficulty and temptation, and by the influence which you have uniformly exerted to counteract the evil forces of sedition and to further the cause of law, order and good government.

In 1917 the Government recognised the title of "Rajah Bahadur" as hereditary in the Nashipur Raj family, which the Maharajah's ancestors had long enjoyed A fire broke out in the record-room and destroyed all the papers connected with the title Hence there was a delay in recognition of the hereditary distinction The Maharajah died on 3rd May 1918, leaving four sons, four daughters and the widow Maharani Kamal Kumari After the mourning period was over, his eldest son Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur, B. A , assumed the hereditary title He was born in November 1888 and was educated in his early years at the Nawab's High School, Murshidabad, and Hare School, Calcutta He passed the I A. Examination in the First Division in 1911 and graduated from the Presidency College in 1913 He finished the law course in the Universyity Law College, Calcutta, and the M A course with mixed Mathematics in the Presidency College, but he could not, owing to continued ill-health, appear at the final Examination

Along with the onerous duty of managing such a vast estate situated in the district of Murshidabad, Birbhum, Rajshahi, Bogra and Pabna, he has devoted himself to works of public utility as an Honorary Magistrate of the Lalbagh Independent Branch with First class powers, Municipal Commissioner and a Member of the District Board He served as Vice-President of the British Indian Accosiation

for some time and as a member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and of the East India Association of London. Besides these, he is associated with almost every public body of the district and also of Calcutta The Rajah Bahadur is still young and is a man of liberal ideas His political views are moderate He has also made a name as a judicious and a considerate landlord and is well liked by his tenants He is blessed with a beautiful daughter, though greatly upset on account of the death of his beloved wife, Rani Prem Kumari, on the 1st March 1920 She was the youngest daughter of Babu Brijmohan Lall of Gaya Hardly had a year passed when the whole Raj family was again plunged in grief by the death of the third Kumar Rani, Kiran Kumari, on the 8th April 1921 She was a very gifted lady and admired for her sterling qualities of head and heart She died at the very young age of seventeen, leaving behind her an only son, Kumar Jitendra Narayan, born six days before the demise of Maharaja Ranajit Sinha Bahadur This is the only male issue among the brothers' children

The Rajah Bahadur has since married again His daughter has recently married Babu Chakreswar Kumar, a Reis and Zamindar of Arrah

The Rajah Bahadur's second brother, Maharaj Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha, married in the same family at Gaya, where the Rajah Bahadur was himself married He is also a graduate of the Calcutta University and is the right hand of his brother in the management of the estate He is an Honarary Magistrate and the Chairman of the Local Board The third brother, Maharaj Kumar Rajendra Narayan Sinha, is a graduate of the Calcutta University, and the youngest brother, Maharaj Kumar Birendra Narayan Sinha, has passed the B. A., Examination in the First Division with distinction from the St Xavier College.

RAJA BAHADUR B. SINHA OF NASHIPUR AND HIS BROTHERS, MAHARAJ KUMARS N. SINHA, R. SINHA AND B. SINHA OF NASHIPUR

THE PALACE NASHIPUR

During the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to Calcutta in 1921, the Rajah Bahadur of Nashipur was accorded a personal interview with His Royal Highness as a mark of favour conferred on him. The Nashipur Raj Palace is a superb building in the ancient Gothic style of architecture, built by the late Rajah Kirtee Chand Sinha Bahadur.

The colossal Thakurbati, built by the late Rajah Udmunt Sinha Bahadur, preserves one of the Best relics of the ancient architecture, and the Shahnashin is a glorious marble work of exquisite workmanship On the 20th November 1819 the said Rajah Udmunt Sinha Bahadur made an absolute gift of the business and profits of his Bara Bazar firm with the Poshta lands and his dwelling house at Hanspookooria in Calcutta besides the some of Rupees one lakh and various zamindaries for the maintenance of his family diety, Raghunathjee, still worshipped in the Raj Bati

The whole palatial building, with the Zenana Mahal, constructed during the life time of the late Maharajah, has been fitted with electric installations

The Rajah Bahadur of Nashipur is maintaining a charitable dispensary, at a great cost, under the supervision of an experienced M B Medical relief is given there with great care not only to the people of Nashipur and the surrounding villages but also to those who resort to it from the interior parts of the country.

The Rajah Bahadur of Nashipur has surrounded himself with officials of tried abilities, who has shown their worth and won the approbation of his father, the late Maharajah Bahadur. The administration of this vast estate by the cultured Rajah Bahadur, aided by an efficient staff under a very capable Dewan is highly satisfactory.

THE KUNDU CHOUDHURI FAMILY OF MOHIARY.

IT was during the Administration of Lord Cornwallis and Marquis of Wellesley under the East India Company that Ramkanta, the *pater familias* of the Kundu Choudhuri Family of Mohiary in the district of Howrah, then a green youth of two and twenty began his career in conjunction with his elder brother Gokul as a cornfactor on a comprehensive scale, and brainy and venturesome that he was, soon captured the monoply of salt imported from Cheshire,—establishing business centres at many different places as Kalna, Katwa Murshidabad, Burdwan, Bhadreswar, and Calcutta,— with which Gokul, the elder brother, could not cope, and fell off Single-handed but with phenomenal capacities through dour, dogged courage and sterling honesty of purposes Ramkanta pushed on and on with his corn and salt, the two staples of the country throughout the length and breadth of the land, and became before long a veritable mint of money to the delight and despair of his elder brother Be it said to his credit that but for the ubiquitous personality of Ramkanta Kundu Choudhuri in the salt market of Lower Bengal in those times, the history of the British salt-trade in India would have been very differently written. For, in Lower Bengal, imported salt has eclipsed that of local manufacture through the process of solar evaporation, and the scale which before rested solidly on the soil, now kicks the beam.

Now Ramkanta, already owner on an extensive scale of Zemindaries and *pattani mahals* far and near in the Burdwan and the Presidency Division, master of a lordly mansion flanked with a pair of Siva temples, in Mohiary,—

BABU GURUDAS KUNDU CHAUDHURI

The Kundu Choudhuri Family of Mohiary (Howrah).

RAI KEDARNATH KUNDU CHAUDHURI BAHADUR

BABU HARAGOPAL KUNDU CHAUDHURI

BABU NAGENDRA MOHAN KUNDU CHAUDHURI

which became his own *mahal* by purchase,—erected at an enormous cost the famous shrine of ,Mapura Chandi—only a few ,miles off from his village, round which hangs many a legendary tale bespeaking the piety and the divinely-appointed mission of the erector. An uncommonly pious man indeed, was he, who succeeded in transmitting his spiritual gifts and graces to his children, his children's children down to the present scions of this illustrious family. He used to spend annually Rs 70,000 in religious ceremonies, which practically ended in charities, and not in *mauches* and theatres or the like. Even to this day, the Kundu Bapus keep up that hereditary tradition and practice of spending the sum of Rs 70,000 a year in religious rites and private charities It may sound a little bizarre in those days of materialism and advertisement But the fact remains all the same despite all levelling tendencies prevalent in the country —Here is an old aristocratic Hindu family, where Luxury and her paraphernalia, the Protean shapes of Polish and Pleasure of the City are still practically unknown. Yet legion is the name of Calcutta properties belonging to the Kundu Babus. Their *guddi* at Hatkhola has become a by-word among men of business and of position wanting to borrow money

The descendants of Ramkanta have not, however, proved lacking in public spirit and initiative Nityanand, his second son, opened up the village, so long an out of the way place, to Sibpore-Howrah traffic by constructing a public thoroughfare over six miles long across impassable swamps and boggy land which he had to acquire for the purpose The road is still called after his name—' Nityanand Kundu Road ' Brajanath, the third son of chaitan founded and endowed the Mohiary Middle School in 1868, while Babu Gooroodas, the grandson of Chaitan reorganised the Andul-Mauri Higher English School in 1891, and spent

Rs. 30,000 for the construction of the new school building—the finest of its kind in the Howrah district,—so goes the report of the District Magistrate and of the Inspectors of Schools in the Burdwan Division. The School itself, in the opinion of Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, is "one of the best within the jurisdiction of the University." Babu Gooroodas, Secretary to the High and the Middle School for a long time is now the President of the School Committee, the present Secretary being Babu Pulinvihari, eldest son of the Jadu Gopal Babu who is a pious aged man of the orthodox type. The Late lamented Heeramohan, son of Brajanat was a great patron of learning, Assistant Secretary to both the Institutions whose sacred memory is perpetuated by his worthy sons in the shape of "Heeramohan Scholarship" annually awarded to the best Scholar of the English school.

The splendid library attached to their High School, another free gift of the Kundu Babus, is such as any Calcutta college may be proud of Nor this is all In 1886, they handed over to the public their own Family Library, which now goes by the name of 'Mohiary Public Library,' containing many valuable Sanskrit and Bengali Mss, not to be found elsewhere, as attested by a Professor and scholar like Sir P. C Roy, author of Hindu Chemistry, and by many other orientalists

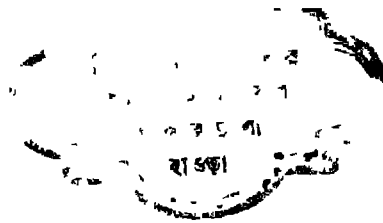
Rai Bahadur Kedarnath, the other great grandson of Ramkanta contributed the sum of Rs. 10,000 towards the construction of the Howrah Town Hall. Babu Kamal Krishna, another chief of the old block, son of Late Babu Annadacharan, is a large-hearted and public-spirited young scion of the illustrious family, who has made a promising beginning of noble self-sacrfice on philanthropic lines for uplifting his country by founding and endowing on a costly scale a hospital, a Secondary College, and a *chatuspathi*

LATE HIRA MOHAN KUNDU CHAUDHURI

BABU JADUGOPAL KUNDU CHAUDHURI.

worthy of his forefathers' name, and for which purpose he is at present negotiating with the Government.

Babu Bijanvihari, third son of Jodu Gopal Babu, and Babu Manabendramohan, Late Heeramohan Babu's second son have recently identified themselves with the organisation of a high class charity institution known as the 'Anath Bandhav Samity' of Mohiary, which bids fair to be complete success. Jadu Gopal Babu's youngest son, Babu Bonvihari, a B. L. likes the local Union Board and the District Board as the line of his future work.

The Kundu Babus gave up their salt business in the Seventies of the last century, probably synchronizing with the Reform of Sir J. Strachey in 1878.

RANEE RASHMONI.

RANEE Rashmoni was born on 11th Aswin 1200 B. S. in the village of Kona near Halishahar in Hugli Her father's name was Harekrishna Das. She was married to one of the multimillionares of the town on the 8th Baisakh 1211 B S (corresponding English year 1804 A. D) The name of the gentleman was " Rai Rajch Das." His public and private charities are too numerous to mention. Some of those are still existing viz " Rajch Doss Road (now termed as " Auckland Road " and " Ochterlory Road ") Babu Ghant" Moribund Ghat in 65/2 strand Road, Ahimtola Ghat, Ananda Moyee Ghat in Hugli etc He had a big tank excavated in Talpukur village in Barrackpore Gave away Rs 10,000 to the public library Metcalfe Hall and made a free gift of a mile of land to Government for the construction of Beliaghata Canal. But unfortunately his career was cut short by his untimely death in 1243 B S He died in his 49th year of apoplexy leaving 4 daughters and his wife " Ranee Rashmoni," At the time of his death his estate was valued at about 2 crores of Rupees. Besides there were Government promissory notes to the value of 68 lakhs, Bank of Bengal shares to the value of Eight lacs and so on, after his death Ranee Rashmoni with the aid of his sons-in-law used to look after her estate. During her life time she did several memorable works of which some are as follows —

1. In 1838 A.D. had a silver car 12 feet high, built at a cost of about Rs. 70,000

2. Had a Public Road constructed to Puri for the convenience of pedestrians

3. Fishermen used to pay revenues to Government for fishing on Hugli, She redeemed the right by paying Rs. 10,000 to Government and made the fishing right free

for the fishermen. The right is still exercised by the fishermen from the Dakineswar temple to Garden Reach and they do not pay any revenue to the Government for the same.

4. During the Mutiny of 1857 Ranee sent a bountiful supply of Flour, rice, plantain, gram etc to Government and also presented a pair of Elephants and 8 horses.

5. In 1855 A.D. 31st May, Ranee started the construction of the world renowned Dakineswar Temple. It took nearly 18 years for the construction of the same, and it cost her 9 lacs of rupees The temple stands on the river Hughi. There are 12 Siva temples, one Kali temple and one Vishnu temple. The area of the Garden is 56 Bighas for the upkeep and maintenance of the Debutter a zemindary in Cerjunnah Salbari, yielding an annual income of Rs. 60,000 is dedicated to the Gods.

6. The famous ascetic Ramakrishna Parambamsa owes his origin from this temple being a priest in the Kali Temple.

7. Constructed the "Tona Canal" in Pergunnah Mokimpore connecting madhumate with Nabaganga at a cost of one Lac. After a long career of benevolence and public munificence, she died in 1267 B. S. 9th Falgun, leaving behind him 5 grandsons to inherit her estate.

Of these Boloram Das father of Ajitnath Das (A.N. Das) stood nigh in the whole family. He was the 2nd grandson of the Rani by her eldest daughter Padmamony-Dasi. Mr. Boloram Das used to look after the whole estate. He was highly orthodox and religious to the extreme. He was a great sanskrit scholar. Noticing the wretched condition of the old Sliver Car, he asked his other 4 co-sharers to join with him in building a new silver car to preserve the memory of his grandmother, but no one listened to him. So in 1911 he at his own cost had another silver car built by

Messrs. Sheehan & Co. of 26 South Road Entally. His nephew Amirta Nath Das contributed partly towards the construction of the same.

Further, he saved the Debutter estate of Dakshineswar from impending ruin by advancing one lac of rupees. Had a receiver appointed through High Court got a decree against the other co-shebaits empowering;him to do worship in Dakshineswar Temple in the Vaishnva form without offering any animals for sacrifice before the Gods and Goddesses. He had to spend an enormous sum of money over this to get the opinion of all Pandits residing over the different parts of India, just to convince Hon. Justice Fletcher (the trying Judge) that there could be worship of the Gods, without inhuman, brutal sacrifices. Besides these he did lots of good to others in private In the latter portion he led an absolute pious life passing his time in devotion and worship He had 4 sons two having been predeceased, he left the entire management of the estate to his two surviving sons one of whom is the present (A. N Das.) He died in 1919, May 2nd leaving two sons and 12 grandsons.

Public activities and a Brief History of the career of Mr. A. N. Das. Zemindar

A. N Das Born in 1887 A,D. great grandson of Rani Rashmony (termed as the well known Marrh family of Jambazar) is the fourth and youngest son of late Mr. Boloram Das. He was educated up to the B A. Standard in the Presidency College, Calcutta He takes part in most of the Public affairs. A member of several clubs and societies, the detailed lists of which is given here.

1. Member, Calcutta Club,—16-6-20.
2. „ Royal Calcutta Turf Club 2-8-20.
3. Freemasonic Society—1-5-20,
4. British Indian Association 20-8-20.
5. Commissioner Calcutta Croporation Ward No. 14 (elected) 7-1-21.

Mr A N Das M R A S (Lond) F Z S (Lond),
ZEMINDAR

6. Member, the National Liberal League 6-4-21.
7. „ North Bengal Zemindars Association 19th April 1921.
8. Founder of Jagat Bannerjeas Lodge 5-9-20.
9. Hony. Presidency Magistrate 11th October 21
10. Justice of the Peace within the limits of Calcutta—11th October 1921.
11 Member, Executive Committee Presidency Magistrates Association 1921, November 18th
12. Member, visiting Committee Campbell Hospital,;Sealdah, nominated by Government since 1921 for 3 consecutive years.
13 Member Royal Asiatic Society, London 17-1-22
14 Member, Management Committee Zoological Gardens, Alipore Calcutta nominated by Government on 15-3-22
15. Member All India Exhibition Committee 27-10-22.
16 Member Agri Horticultural Society, Alipore 4-12-22.
17 Fellow Zoological Society, London 21-3-23.
18 Member St John's Ambulance 17th May 23.
19. Member (Hony) Army and Navy Co-operative Society 30-10-22
20. Member Sahitya Parishat 26-10-20.
21. „ Royal Reception Committee during the visit of H. R H the Prince of Wales in Calcutta.
22. Nominated Councillor to the Corporation of Calcutta under the new Act 2nd April 24

Re his munificence towards public matters, a detailed list is given below —

1. Presented the Guinea Pig and Rabbit House in the Zoological Gardens, Alipore named as "Boloram House" to perpetuate the memory of his father, " Mr. Boloram Doss."

2 A donation of Rs. 1,500 to the Taltollah public library

3. A donation of Rs. 500 to St John's Ambulance through Mr K C De I C S, Member, Board of Revenue and Commissioner Presidency Dn.

4. Establishment of a "Hat in Symgunge (Rangpore District) at a cost of Rs 10,000

Besides these he was one of the Directors in the Hahnumaun Home & Co Ltd. and is still a life member of the Constitutional Club in 10 Harrington Street. He tried to be the member of the Legislative Council from the Rangpur constituency but unfortunately failed He has 3 sons and one daughter The eldest master Krishna Kishore Das, member Royal Agricultural Society, London, has gained senior school Certificate Examination Cambridge with distinctions this year in his 14th year being born in the year 1909 A D. and has passed the London Matriculation and is Studying I-A in St Xaviers' College, Calcutta The other two boys also Kunja Kishore Das and Kamal Kumar Das are studying in the same College.

BABU NARAYAN CHANDRA ROY CHAUDHURY

THE HISTORY OF CHOTOTARAF ROY CHOWDHURY FAMILY, MAHADEBPUR.

DURING the reign of the Moghul Emperors the "Muskuri Mahal" was divided into 21 Paraganas namely:— 1. Baharul, 2 Mandul ghat, 3 Arsha 4. Chunakhali, 5. Ahmednagar, 6 Jahangirpur, 7 Atia Kagmari, 8 Shalbari, 9. Tahirpur, 10 Chadnai, 11. Patil daha, 12. Santosh, 13. Alapsing, 14 Satshaika, 15. Mohamed Aminpur, 16. Paltas Khardaha, 17 Pukhira, 18. Maihati, 19 Hujuri talukdaran, 20 Akbarnagar, 21. Khuchera Mahal. Of those the sixth Jahangirpur was under Chakla Ghoraghat. Babu Nayan chand Mukherjee of the illustrious Mukhopadhyaya family of Krishnapur in Birbhum got the Zamindari right of the aforesaid Paragana from the Moghul Emperor Jahangir and was titled Roychowdhury. Upto the time of Debibor Roy the 5th in descent from Nayan Chand Roy chowdhury, the Zamindari right was kept in possession on payment of revenue amounting to Rs. 64 249. He had two sons Ram Bhadra Roy and Rameswar Roy. During their time confusion set in the management of Zamindari affairs. Failing to collect revenues, Ram Bhadra Roy gave up his share in favour of Rameswar Roy The line of Ram Bhadra Roy is still an influential family at Bejora. Of the four sons of Rameswar Roy two died in infancy and of the surviving two Bireswar Roy willed the Zemindari affairs manfully and Rudra Ram Roy withdrew his claim to his share and remained satisfied with the monthly allowance called "Majulan Mashahara" and settled up at Gofanager in Rajshahi During the time of Bireswar Roy the East India Company got possession of Bengal. The East India Company made a contract with Bireswar Roy and cut off ⅛th portion of the Zamindari and gave it to Kanto

Nath of Cassimbazar. This $\frac{1}{4}$th part formed the Touhi No. 54 of Dinajpur collectorate. The remaining portion of the Zamindari was comprised of 1294 Manjas under 28, 35, 40 and 42 Touhis of Dinajpur collectorate and equal division of which was made by Bireswar Roy among his four sons. The owners of 28, 35 and 40 Touhis being unable to collect their revenues the Zamindaries were put to auction and were purchased in parts by the Zemindars of Porsha of Dinajpur, the Maharaja of Dinajpur, the Zemindar of Balurghat, the Rai Sahib of Dinajpur, Raj Estate of Balihar, the Lahiri Zemindar of Khajir and others and the decendants of Gouri Kanto and they are still in possession of them. Janaki nath Roy the adopted son of the youngest son of Bireswar Roy had two sons Durga Nath Roy and Govinda Nath Roy The sons of the adopted son ot Durga Nath Roy as well as the great grand son of the adopted son Shyama Nath Roy of Govinda Nath Roy all descendant of Nayan chand Roy Chowdhury, the first recipient of Roy Chowdhury of the line are living at Mahadepur in the district of Rajshahi Rameswar Roy, Bireswar Roy and others were orthodox hindus and had a whole hearted regard for Hinduism and Mahamadanism alike In each Mouja they founded several stone images of Gods and Goddesses and granted Devateor land for their up keep. Mahamadan Mosques were also granted pirpal lands in like manner and by their impartial dealings they conducted the Estate affairs peacefully. Many of these images are now preserved in the Birendra Research society at Rajshahi. The image of Sidheswari at Tilna, Sidheswari at Kamardaha and mother Adya at Debipur bear witness to tue religious mindedness of the founder. Shyama Nath Roy the adopted son of Govinda Nath Roy was a great favourite of the Government. He attended the Bankipur Darbar where he was awarded the certificate of Queen Victoria for his public works. He was also permitted to keep in his possession guns and cannon

without license The post office, the police station charitable dispensary etc were established by him He died in 1269 B S leaving his minor son Narendra Nath and his wife Harimoni Debi Horimani Debi managed the Zemindari affairs as a guardian of the minor Narendra Nath. She piloted the Zemindari business so creditably and was so charitably disposed that her name has become proverbial in this quarter. Unfortunately Narendra Nath Roy chowdhury died in 1298 B S at an early age of 22 leaving his only son Narayan Chandra Roy chowdhury who was then of 8 months only. On his attaining majority in 1327 B.S. his grand mother Harimoni Debi handed over the charge to him.

Narayan Chandra Roy chowdhury was born in 1296 B.S. He is now the premier Zemindar of the village He is the son-in-law of the Hon'ble justice Sir Nalini Ranjan chatterjee kt Though a young man of 30 he has the head and heart of a sober and wise man Placed as he is on the exalted position of Bengal aristrocat he freely mixes with the villagers without making any distinction of caste and creed Many acts of his benevolence have already established his good name in the District He availed himself of the first opportunity that afford itself to him when he got the mastry over his Zemindari and established a High English School in co-operation with the public in his own village and made a handsome donation of Rs. 5000. He is always up with philanthropic works The charitable dispensary of his grand father is doing an excellent work under his guidance and pecuniary help

The excellent service that he rendered to the distressed people of the surrounding villages at the time of the Great North Bengal floods of 1325 and 1329 B S was much appreciated by the people at large. His heart always cries for the poor and he is always endeavouring for their welfare even at the cost of his own interest

and prestige. Many students of his district are prosecuting their studies with his substantial pecuniary help. His amiable and good disposition win the heart of any one who comes in contact with him. During the short time of management of his Estate he was been able to draw the attention of the government by his noble deeds and he has been favoured with the permission of attending the livy Darbars of Governor of Bengal and also the livy Darbar of H. R. H. The Prince of Wales.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ANDUL RAJ.

AMONG the aristocratic houses of the district of Hooghly that of Andul is unquestionably the foremost, if not in income and the extent of its Zemindaries, at least for fame and liberality Its past history shows that it had at one time considerable influence both political and social. The Mookerjees of Utterparah, the Mookerjees of Janai, the Mullicks of Andul or Ramakrishnapore, and the Nawab-Babus of Singhoor, were all inferior to the Rajas of Andul in position and power The Singhoor family no longer exists Its palaces and gardens have disappeared Its extensive zemindaries are in other hands The descendants of the founder are scarcely known The Mullicks also of Ramakrishnapore (or Andul) have in a manner disappeared as a family Their splendid zemindaries and other forms of property have in a large measure, been merged in the estate that was acquired by Babu Matilal Seal and that is enjoyed in shares by his grandsons The Mookerjees of Janai have been considerably reduced. The principal branch has almost been ruined by litigation. A few members have their shares entire, but none of them deserves to be named in a history of the territorial aristocracy of their native district The Mookerjees of Utterparah are rising every year into prominence Its members are famed for intelligence and education and the possessions of the family are steadily increasing. Rajah Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C S I, is now the first man of his district He enjoys a deserved popularity He has served the Government with credit, and his friendship is valued by officials belonging to the highest rank

The house of Andul, for many years occupied a position much superior to that which even the Mookerjees of Utterparah now have The founder of the family was Dewan Ram Charan Roy He was a Kayastha of good

blood. Possessed of great intelligence, he received a good Persian and Arabic education. He succeeded also in picking up a little knowledge of English. Circumstances favoured his admission into the service of the East India Company in the early forties of the eighteenth century. He was appointed as Vakil of Hooghly at a salary of Rs 20 per month plus Rs. 5 for horse and 2 peons. He was then transferred to Murshidabad on a salary of Rs. 40 plus Rs. 12 for 6 kahars, Rs. 12–8–0 for 5 peons, 1 musulchi for Rs. 2 and Rs. 3–8–0 for menials During the battle of Plassey he was appointed as Dewan on a salary of Rs 60 per month. By his diligence and honesty he succeeded in attracting the attention of Clive The revolution brought about by the battle of Plassey, which practically made the English masters of the country improved the position and prospects of almost every superior servant of the East India Company in Bengal. Dewan Ram Charan rose in the esteem of his masters and patrons. Like Rajah Nobokissen, he enjoyed the confidence of the Government. Whether he retired into a private position when Clive left India for the first time, is not known. But it is said that when Clive, after having got a peerage, landed a second time at Calcutta and assumed the charge of affairs, Dewan Ram Charan Roy joined him. During the absence of Clive from Bengal, the battle of Buxar had been fought Major Munro had inflicted a signal defeat, on the 23rd of October 1764, on the Nawab Vizier of Oudh who had come to invade Behar, with the Emperor of Delhi, Sha Allum, who was almost a fugitive then from his capital, in his company. Nothing serious had resulted from the English victory at Buxar. Clive came to Calcutta on the 3rd of May 1765, and soon after, on the 12th August, the Emperor Sha Allum, by a Firman, granted the East India Company the Dewani of the three Subahs of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, for an annual tribute of 26 lacs of rupees.

A short while after this, the Emperor wishing to gratify Lord Clive further proposed to bestow honours upon some of his followers and servants. It was then that Dewan Ram Charan Roy was sought to be recommended by Lord Clive The Dewan, however, refused every honour for himself He respectfully, represented to his master that his eldest son Ram Lochan Roy was a very fit person for whatever distinction the Emperor might be desirous of conferring on him Clive yielded to his Dewan's representations. The Emperor conferred the distinction of Rajah on Ram Lochan Roy, with the full approval of Lord Clive. Besides this Ram Lochan was given the command of 5000 troops of all arms, Punch hajari munshi privilege of using a fringed palanquin and a *Dunka* (a kettle drum.) It was on that occasion that a Cannon 4'-7' in length and 3' inches calibre came into the possession of the family which is still in the possession of the said family When Ram Charan died, the Directors of the said Company sent condolence letter to his son Ram locham. It is said that at the time of his death he left 72 lacs of rupees in cash and, Hundi, Zemindary to the value of 18 lacs, Jewellery worth rupees 20 lacs, 80 gold jars and 320 silver jars.

Mr. H. Vanasittart was appointed Governor of Calcutta in 1761. He appointed Ram Lochan as his Dewan (Banian) Towards the end of his life, he lived at Pathuriaghata, Calcutta and died on 1787 He rendered valuable services to the British Government He was one of the principal witnesses in the trial of Nundakumar and was examined as to the donation to the Navy, at a meeting of the select committee August 10, of 1766 The court of Directors expressed its opinion of Nundakumar, in the following terms in a letter dated the 22nd February 1764 "From the whole of your proceedings with respect to Nundakumar, there seems to be no doubt of his endeavouring, by forgery and false accusation to ruin Ramacharan" In a minute by John Johnston, dated June 17 of 1765 .. ..Ram-

pharan, who his Lordship certified, served, him entirely to his satisfication " On his death, the Court of Directors wrote a letter of condolence to his son. Warren Hastings, in recognition of his loyalty and fidelity made Jhorehat, a village near Andul, free of revenue. Colorah and other villages and Taluks were granted to him under Mirjaffer's first Government and Purgunah was granted under Cassim Alli Khan's government He had acquired a large fortune but a large portion of it was spent by him in numerous charitable and religious acts. As regards this military command, Ram Lochan was under the orders of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal. Murshidabad was also given to him by Warren Hastings as Jagirs, which was the property of the Raja of Murshidabad who was disinherited on account of his blindness. But afterwards Raja Ramalochan returned the same to the Raja of Murshidabad by a deed of gift when the Rani of Murshidabad approached him for his favour

Ram Lochan was a liberal patron of letters He encouraged Sanskrit learning by presents on all occasions to the Pundits. So great was the influence which Ram Lochan acquired that he established a new era, called the ANDULABDA for observance within his own zemindaries The present year is the 130th of the ANDULABDA Raja Ram Lochan was succeeded by his eldest son Raja Kasi Nath Roy. Kasi Nath was singularly amiable and had many sterling virtues Himself possessed of no mean acquaintance with Sanskrit and Persian he encouraged both Sanskrit and Persian scholars after the manner of his illustrious father He made gifts of land to many Brahmans It was he who built the temple of Annapurna at Andul. He died in 1815 when he was mourned by a large number of friends and admirers. He was succeeded by his son Raja Raj Narayan Roy. Raja Raj Narain was 6 years old when his father died and the estate was under the Court of wards till his attaining majority He was educated in the Hindu College and acquired a great proficiency in the Sanskrit language. He took a leading part in almost all the movements of the Kays-

Raja Raj Narayan Roy Bahadur

tha and maintained their right to be treated in no way inferior except to the Brahmins in point of social position. A book called "Kaystha Koustob" was compiled by him with the help of some learned Pundits in which he had satisfactorily proved from various Sanskrit authority that the Kaysthas are Kshattriyas and they formerly worn the sacred thread and it is a fact that he, like the Kshattriyas observed the religious ceremoney of *Kusundika* (a Vedic ceremoney performed in the marriage of a Brahmin and Kshattriya) on the occasion of his sons marriage at Andul. The latter was possessed of very great intelligence and did all in his power to increase the glory of his house He was a well-known patron of music Few professors of that art came to Bengal from Delhi or Gwalior or Lucknow, who were not invited to Andul The musical SOIREES of Andul were always grand Almost everybody of any consequence at Calcutta and its neighbourhood was invited Every guest had to wear the Durbar dress of the country as it had been settled by Mahomedan taste at Delhi The PAJYAMA, the CHAPKAN, the KAABA, the KOMARBAND and the turban, were its distinguishing features It was very graceful Those who have not seen it may see it in the pictures usually sold at the Bazaar of Sir Rajah Radhakant Deb Bahadur Raja Raj Narayan was also an encourager of Sanskrit learning Professor Prem Chandra Tarkavagisha, one of the greatest names in the history of the Calcutta Sanskrit College, a rhetorician and poet whose fame had travelled into every part of India, was induced to begin an original Sanskrit poem ,called the "Andul Raj Prasasti" Some cantos had been completed but, unfortunately for the interests of Sanskrit learning, these could not be printed in consequence of the death of Raja Raj Narayan. A few verses collected with great difficulty by the poet's brother and biographer, the retired Deputy Magistrate, Babu Ramakshaya Chatterjee, are all that remain of the only regular

poem to the composition of which he had directed his talents. These may be seen by the curious in the life written in Bengali, of Professor Prem Chandra Tarkavagisha by Babu Ramakshya Raja Raj Narayan had succeeded in attracting the attention of Lord Auckland almost immediately after his Lordship's arrival in India In 1836 Lord Auckland was pleased to recognise his title of Rajah and to bestow upon him a dress of honour with a jewelled sword and dagger. These gifts were highly valued in those days and none but the foremost personages could receive them.

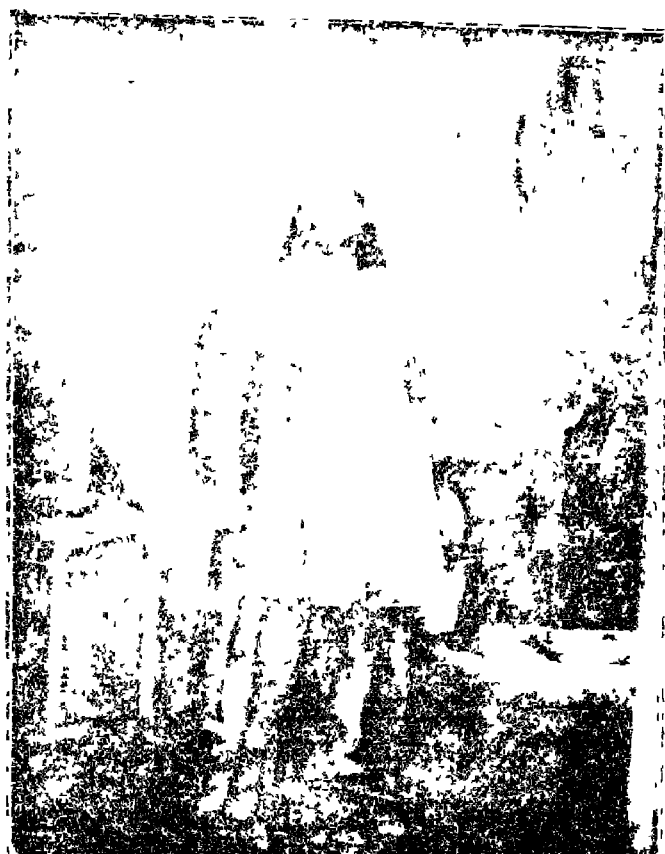
FORT WILLIAM, 18TH MAY 1835

The Honourable Governor General in Council has been pleased to confer upon Babu Raj Narayan Roy, Zemindar of Andul, the dignity and title of Raja Bahadur

Sd. W. H Mavnaighton,
Secretary to the Government of India

Like his worthy father and grandfather, he was exceptionally loyal to the British Government. He retained in his Durber learned pundits of Mithila and Benares. He had opened a Sanskrit Chatuspathi in charge of an eminent pundit It was in his time that Andul became famous for a seat of learning and was rightly denominated 'Navadwip of the South' Andul was proud of the birth of Bhairoba Charan Vidyasagar, who was a most learned pundit and a performer of Joga He was well versed in Smriti, Naya, Kabaya and Philosophy In the religious meeting at Navadwip he was invited with numerous renowned pundits from the different parts of India where he was not received with due respect as he came from such insignificant village Afterwards he came out with high admiration and estimation after defeating his rival pundits in Philosophy and other Sastras His fame was spread then like wild fire through the length and breadth of India. Pundits from Benares and other places got magnificient donation from

RAJA KHETRA KRISHNA MITTRA

Raja Bejoy Keshal Roy

him. He was equally charitable in works of public utility. He excavated many large tanks in his Raj and opened many roads, including the one connecting Andul and Rajgunge on the Hughly. He was an apt and excellent administrator and he considerably enlarged his Raj with its income. He was highly esteemed by the most learned pundits of his time and his death was much regreted by several respectable European and Indian gentlemen. The Palace with its magnificent Durbar Hall which he built, is indeed a work of art and is said to be one of the most picturesque buildings in Bengal Raja Raj Narayan was succeeded by his son Raja Bejoy Keshab Roy Raja Raj Narayan was succeeded by Raja Bejaya Kesab Roy. The latter fully maintained the traditions of the family by his liberality to Sanskrit learning He died childless in 1877 leaving two widows. Powers of adoption had been given to both the widows who in exercise thereof took two children in adoption This course being pronounced to be contrary to the Hindu Law by some of its most eminent expositors a litigation followed, which, after dragging on its tortuous length in the Calcutta High Court, was finally carried before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council The adoptions were pronounced illegal and accordingly set aside, with the result that the son of the daughter of Raja Kasi Nath was declared to be the heir-at law. The present possessor of the Andul Raj is that son of Raja Kasi Nath's daughter. Styled by all his countrymen as Raja *Kshetter* Krishna Mitter, the latter is distinguished for his liberality. The resources of the Raj have been greatly crippled in consequence of the litigatoin adverted to above. The present possessor with the very substantial aid of his painstaking able and worthy eldest son Babu Woopendra Nath Mitter, by himself looking into every detail and by introducing legitimate economy, is doing his best to increase his sources. For all that he never refuses to spend when the object which calls for the expen-

diture is fraught with good to the community. To the Cholera Hospital at Uluberiah he has given a sum of Rs. 600 as donation with a monthly subscription of Rs 10 This is being paid from January 1894. To the Uluberiah Government School he gives a monthly subscription of Rs. 25, that is, an annual amount of Rs 300, and the Amadi School at Khulna he gives a yearly subscription of Rs 48 for ensuring perfect regularity of payment he has kept apart a sufficient sum whose interest may come up to that amount. To the Dispensary Building fund for the Khulna Charitable Dispensary at Khulna he has given a sum of Rs. 100 as donation, and to the Queen Empress Commemoration Fund, he has paid Rs. 100.

At Hanumant Ghat Seebpore, there is a spacious compound with brick walls on three sides and a range of pucca rooms on the fourth side, which was given years ago by the Andul Raj to the people of Seebpore and the adjacent towns and villages for use as a Burning Ghat The river (Hooghly) having receded far away from this enclosure, leaving only a narrow khal which, however, is filled at high tide the Burning Ghat at Hanumant requires improvements. The present owner of the Andul Raj has promised a contribution of Rs 10,000, of which Rs 5,000 have already been placed in the hands of the Magistrate of Howrah, for making those improvements Near enough to Hanumant Ghat are four temples erected many years ago for the worship of Mahadeva represented by four stone images within them. To this day Rs 100 are paid by the Andul Raj every year for the worship of those images That sum is supporting a poor Brahmin family of Seebpore for the last four generations. To the Countess of Dufferin Hospital at Hooghly, a sum of Rs. 500 has been paid. About two years ago, at the request of Mr. Grierson, the Magistrate of Howrah, the present proprietor of the Raj, at an expenditure

of Rs. 5,000 rebuilt the bridge at Andul over the Sarasvati. That Bridge is a work of great utility. More than five thousand passengers and a large number of carts and cattle pass over it, as the road over it leads to Rajgunge, an important centre of local trade. Subsequently this important Andul Rajgunge Road has been metalled at the cost of the Andul Raj This is a work of even greater utility than the Andul Bridge It is a boon to the local public for it has removed a long felt grievance of the locality and particularly of the daily passengers to Calcutta, the road used to be almost impassable during the rainy season The metalling of the Rajgunge Road and portion of the Andul Road has been completed through the Howrah District Board at a cost of Rs 8,000 of which Rs 5,000 paid by Raja Kshetra Krishna for improvement of the Burning Ghat at Hanumanta was transferred to the Howrah District Board for the Rajgunge Road and the remainder of Rs 3,000 has been paid by the Andul Estate Besides this, the present proprietor maintained, at a monthly expenditure of Rs 300, a Higher Class English School at Andul for a period of 5 years It was known as the "Andul Jubilee School". It had cost a sum of Rs 30 000, when, about five years ago, it was abolished at the earnest request of Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyayaranta who represented that an Institution like that at Andul did a good deal of harm to the Aided-school at Mohiari There is also a *Thakur bari* at Andul in which are hundreds of images of Mahadeva and a valuable image of Annapurna, the goddess of food. For the worship of these, a sum of Rs 40,00 has to be spent every year It is scarcely necessary to add that the largest portion of this sum is practically devoted to charity, for no member of the Andul Raj can appropriate to his or her own use any portion of the articles of food that are daily dedicated to the deities. Those articles are daily given away to the poor Another donation "in aid of the Lord Mayor's

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fund (London) for the relief of the Widows and Orphans of the gallant officers and men killed in the Transvaal War' he has given Rs. one hundred. In all such works of charity and public utility Raja Kshetra Krishna's eldest son Woopendra Nath is the prime mover.

Himself being candid and upright, he always loved fair and squire dealings in all transaction. In recognition of his catholic charity and kindly feelings towards his tenants he received the following certificate of honour

Certificate granted to Raja Kshettra Krishna Mittra in the name of Empress of India.

June 20th, 1897.

"By Command of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, this certificate is presented in the name of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, Empress of India to Babu Kshettra Krishna Mittra, Zemindar of Andul, Howrah, in recognition of his public spirit and liberality."

(Sd.) A. Mackenzie,
Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

Having such a history, the proprietors of the Andul Raj have always been known all over the country as Rajas The founder of the family, as said above had received the title of Raja from the Emperor Sha Allum with the full approval of Lord Clive The third in descent from him received a recognition of the title from Lord Auckland together with a robe of honour and a sword and dagger.

The late Kumar Upendra Nath Mitra, the eldest of the late Raja Kshetra Krishna Mitra of happy memory, was a man, not only of extraordinary calibre, but also of unquestionably pure character. He commanded, during his life-time, by virtue of his unflinching and hearty devotion to the public cause, his love of truth, disinterested patriotism and by distribution of equal justice among subjects, not only

KUMAR UPENDRANATH MITTRA

KUMAR PROMATHA NATH MITTRA.

their unqualified praise but also their love. Among the varied blessings that he conferred on his subjects and many acts of public utility that he did for the good of the people and that bear an eloquent testimony to his unbounded charity and the magnanimity of his soul is the establishment by him, of a pucca grave yard with a pucca building on the bank of the sacred Sarasvati river of historic fame for public use.

The half of the Andul Raj which was his, and which has now passed into the hands of his surviving sons under the name of "*Bara-taraf*" is now under the management of the executors appointed according to the will he made.

Kumar Upendra Nath Mitra breathed his last on the 1st July, 1909 leaving five sons, namely (1) Kumar Promotha Nath Mitra, (2) Kumar Manmatha Nath Mitra, (3) Kumar Surath Nath Mitra, (4) Bharat Nath Mitra and (5) Jaganath Mitra, and four daughters.

Kumar Promotha Nath Mittra was born in 1296 B S. at Andul His career as a student was not particularly a brilliant one He was hampered in the proper prosecution of his studies owing to the death of his father. Though unable to have the higher education, his thirst for knowledge was ardent and he lost no opportunity of augumentating the general knowledge of English and Bengali by his home study

He married the third daughter of Babu Brojo Lal Basu, a very respectable Mukhaya Kulin family of Raiskaty in the district of Berrishal H has got one son and two daughters.

He was embarrassed and put to much difficulty and trouble at the prime of his youth, just after the death of his father in connection with the estate affairs but his enthusiasm and self-determination sustained him all trials. That stage which was characterised by acute mental agony and suffering from the egar desire for bringing back the estate

from the clutches of the executors of will of his father in their hands, which was going to be ruined Ultimately his efforts were crowned with success. He evoked new life to the estate by adopting the progressive eliments of the European method as to faciliate the improvement of the estate on which he stamped his personality. His ardent desire is to increase the glory of the family by uniting the whole estate under the joint management without militating the conservative nature of the owner. He is understood to be a capable man with natural utility and considerable force of character He is intelligent, energetic, enterprising and promising young man He has a desire for doing good to the people and to the country and fears not to say or to do what he thinks just and true He is upright and loves also fair dealings in all transactions. He seldom passes his time idly He has got much proficiency in photography, painting, music, shooting and other mechanical works He is also interested in agriculture, He started a model agricultural firm with a view to educate the cultivators for the products of good crops. A co-operative store was opened at Andul by the Grammoy a Hitakari Sava under his proper guidance and supervision of which he was secretary He is the president of the Andul Union Board, vice president of the Mahiary charitable dispensary, founder and promoters of the Grammoya Hitakari Sava and leading members of other institutions.

He presided in the monster meeting held at Andul on the 1st June 1912 for the celebration of the Grammoya Hitakari Sava. In the course of his address he explained the object of the necessity and utility of the Sava and recommended for mass education, for the sanitary improvement of the village, for the development of the cottage Industry with a view to help the distressed family, for the improvement of the agriculture, commerce and industry, for the strict observance of the religious sentiment, for the improving the

social condition, for starting co-operative Bank and Store, for the introducation of music, for the construction and repairs of the private path and burning ghat and for settling the dispute of the villagers out of the court and so on. In conclusion he asked the people to weed out the many objectionable evil practices and customs that had crept into their fold and opened their eyes to the great moral and social deterioration that had reduced them to their present level. He asked for their united efforts and hearty co-operation in achieving good to the people and to the country with heart within and God over head, when he was greeted with enthusiastic cheers. He also presided in the war loan meeting held at Andul Mohiary H E School in 1917 when he succeeded in raising funds towards the war loan and recruiting the army from the villages by his stirring speech

He is social, liberal and public spirited His personal qualities endeared him to his subjects and the people of the country His hospitality, his love of country, his dignity, his generosity and sympathy for the poor is widely known. He helps the poor and the distressed family of the locality with funds and foods He lives in a very simple style The bent of his mind is for the public works

Kumar Monmotha Nath Mittra was born in 1298 B S. He married the daughter of Babu Akhoy Chandra Bose, the Attorney at-law of Calcutta High Court He has got only one daughter He has great taste for music and shooting. He loves also sports

Kumar Surath Nath, Mittra was born in 1304 B S. After passing B. A , examination he is serving as an article clerk in the office of some attorney at Calcutta He is good natured and polite He married the only daughter of Kumar Khagendra Krishna Deb of Sova Bazar in Calcutta. He has got one son and two daughters.

Kumar Bharat Nath Mittra was born in 1306 B S. After passing B Sc examination he is now reading in the Calcutta Law College He is intelligent and promising.

Kumar Jagat Nath Mittra was born in 1314 B. S. He is now minor and is reading Matriculation in the Calcutta Hindu College. He is singularly amiable and good natured. Every one loves him very much who comes in contact with him.

The late lamented Kumar Nagendra Nath Mitra, the third or youngest son of the late Raja of Andul was a man of happy memory, whose unbounded munificence, proverbial simplicity of manners and noble deeds have enshrined his name in the grateful recollection of his people He died at the early age of 42 on the 16th October, 1911, leaving his only son Kumar Sailendra Nath Mitra and three daughters, two having died during his lifetime and much regretted by all.

The half of the Andul Raj Estae, which was Kumar Nagendra Nath's and which now passes under the name of "*Chota-tarof*" has now passed into the hands of Kumar Sailendra Nath Mitra, the worthy son of a worthy father, the pride and glory of the Andul Raj Family. The unbounded charity of Kumar Sailendra Nath Mitra, his love of learning, which have showed themselves best in the construction, by the Kumar Bahadur, of a pucca landing place near the cremation ground of the village of Bygari and in the establishment, by him of a Sanskrit tol and library called Makham Kumari Tol and Makham Kumari Library, after his mother's name, for the proper upbringing of young Brahmins, the promptitude and readiness with which he responds to the prayer of suffering humanity and extends his helping hand to alleviate their sufferings and his transparent simplicity are traits that have not only endeared his name to all but also have made it a household word throughout the length and breadth of this country Kumar Sailendra Nath stands out prominent not only as a benefactor of

Mr Kumar Sailendranath Mitter, Zemindar, Andulraj (Junior Branch)

mankind but also as a great social reformer and a man of vast erudition His writings bear an eloquent testimony to this fact, his Pruohita is one of the best books he has written, for the edification of the public, and is a splendid social drama which reflects not only the spirit of the present age but also the noble spirit with which the author himself has been animated The beautiful style in which he has couched his thoughts and sentiments affords sufficient proof of his thorough acquaintance with both English and Bengali literature There are many public institutions that have had a share in the unbounded charity of Kumar Sailendra Nath Kumar Bahadur has been blessed with two sons, named Aloka Mitra and Asoka Mitra, and a daughter

PEARY CHURN SIRCAR.

EARLY in the 17th century, Bireswar Das, born of a Kayastha *Moulik* family, settled at the village of Torra-Antpur in the Hugli District His ancestral home was Krisnagore He was a Tahsildar during the Mahomedan rule, and the then Nawab of Bengal, pleased with his proficiency in Mathematics and Zemindary work, honoured him with the title of "Sircar." His grandson Sivaram settled at Chorebagan, in Calcutta in 1791 A D & died in 1797 A. D. leaving two sons Tarini Churn and Bhairab Chandra. Peary Churn was the third son of Bhairab Chandra was born on the 23rd January 1823 in his maternal grandfather's house, also at Chorebagan and very close to his ancestral house

Peary Churn received his first education at the "School Society's School" founded by David Hare, which was afterwards called "Colootola Branch School" situated near the temple of Siddheswari (Kali) in Cornwallis Street Peary Churn's boyhood and youth were spent in David Hare's company. It is only those who learnt at the feet of David Hare that could realise the grandeur of his supreme character, In the course of his daily association with such a man. Peary Churn was impressed with the brilliant example of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty, which subsequently moulded his life David Hare too was particularly fond of Peary Churn, not only for his brilliant scholarship but for his amiable character also Peary Churn worshiped his memory all his life In 1838 Peary Churn passed the Junior Scholarship Examination with credit from the Colootola Branch School, securing a scholarship He joined the 3rd class of the Hindu College, and distinguished himself from the very beginning, securing the highest prizes in all examinations The Calcutta University was not born yet and there

Mr. Peary Churn Sircar

were only the Junior and the Senior Scholarship Examinations. Before Peary Churn's time, the Senior scholars of the Hindu College were merely awarded certificate of merit. In 1840 the Senior Scholarship Examination was founded and the first Examination was held in 1841. Peary Churn headed the list of successful boys securing a scholarship of Rs. 40 a month. The result of this examination confirmed the reputation of Peary Churn as the best scholar of the Hindu College and the reports of the Council of Education for the 3 successive years containing his answers to questions or essays contributed to bring him into prominence and respect In the following year also Peary Churn topped the list and again received a monthly scholarship of Rs. 40. Next year too, Peary Churn stood first in the Senior Scholarship Examination. Thus for 3 successive years he maintained his reputation, although there were many other brilliant students in the Hindu College at the time.

In 1840, the year in which the Senior Scholarship Examination was created,, the Educational authorities with a view to advance Higher Education still further, founded the Library Medal Examination No particular books or subjects were prescribed for that examination and hence the examinees were required to study heaps of books. Peary Churn worked hard and incessantly at it for 3 years and passed the examination with credit obtaining the highest prize. This is what Captain D L. Richardson, Principal of Hindu College and a famous Shakespere scholar, says about Peary Churn's Knowledge of English literature —" He has always distinguished himself by the propriety of his general conduct, by his attention to his studies and by the superiority of his talents. His knowledge of English literature is highly creditable to him." And this is what Mr. V. L. Rees, the renowned Professor of Mathematics, says about Peary Churn's mathematical acquirements:—The mathematical acquirements of Babu Peary Churn Sircar are of the highest order ; few only are his equals The differential and inte-

gral calculus, the calculation of Solar and lunar Eclipses for any future period are familiar to him. His behaviour has always been such that I could not wish any other pupils to surpass him "

In 1832, at the age of 19, Peary Churn was married to the fourth daughter of Shib Narain Basu of the famous Raja Manick Basu's family of Hathkola He became the Head Master of the Baraset Government School, which soon attained a high position under his able guidance. Here he started an agricultural class for the training of the boys during their leisure hours. He also established a Hostel for students He also started a Girls' School at Baraset with the help of some of his friends Babu Kally K. Mitra in spite of violent opposition and even at the risk of life, for the hostile Zemindars had proclaimed a reward for killing him and Babu Kally K Mitra He also started an Industrial School there for the labouring classes. His life at Baraset was full of activities though he was quite young at the time For he went to Baraset at 22 and left at 31.

In 1844 he was appointed Head Master of the Colootollah Branch School in Calcutta, which was subsequently named Hare School at the instance of Peary Churn This School soon outshone the splendour of Hindu School and came to be recognised as the first school in Bengal. Peary Churn, besides his educational activities, was the pioneer of Temperance movement in Bengal and started the Bengal Temperance Society in 1863. In 1866 owing to the great famine in Orissa, there was quite an influx of famine-stricken people in Calcutta. Peary Churn begging from door to door, and subscribing Rs 100 a month himself raised a fund to start relief works Five to Six Hundred people were fed every day. This continued for three months and nearly a million were fed. Peary Churn was also one of the pioneers in introducing Homoepathy in Calcutta. As Editor of the Education Gazette which was then a Government paper, he was congratulated by Mr. Atkinson, the then Director of

Public Instruction for increasing its circulation. Later on when his article on the Shamnagore Railway accident met with the disapprobation of Government he at once resigned the Editorship carrying a salary of Rs. 300 a month although Mr Atkinson advised him to withdraw his resignation and to retain the Editorship.

Peary Churn rendered great help to Pundit Iswar Ch. Vidyasagar in the cause of widow re-marriage. Peary Churn's charity was great, but quiet and unostentatious. As a teacher he had no equal. Latterly in recognition of his meritorious services he was made a Professor of English Literature in the Presidency College, where he distinguished himself still more He was called the "Arnold of the East." As a man the qualities of his head and heart endeared him to all. 'Amiable in disposition, modest, though profoundly erudite, spotless in character, unselfish' and unassuming, he commanded the respect and admiration of all. He was never known to be angry. "Work is worship" was the motto of his life and he was pre-eminently a man of action. He was a distinguished educationist and a social reformer.

At a time when people educated in English vied with one another, in taking to wine and beef, for showing their freedom from "native prejudices"—Peary Churn led a simple and auster life devoting all his spare time for public welfare. Although he had a princely income from his text books, and he spent a few rupees per month on himself he died a very poor man at the early age of 50 Among his descendants we may mention his son Sailendra Nath sircar who has devoted his life to the cause of education, and his grandson Mr. N N. Sircar one of the leaders of the Calcutta Bar, who have both tried to follow the footsteps of Peary Charan, in the matter of quiet and unostentatious charity

BABU RAJENDRANATH SANYAL.

ZEMINDAR OF BALURGHAT.

BABU Rajendra Nath Sanyal, Zemindar of Balurghat, in the district of Dinajpur, represents a respectable zemindar family of Bengal The ancestral seat of the family was formerly in the village of Champta in the district of Rajshahi. One of his ancestors, the late Shibaram Sanyal, left the village of Champta and migrated to the village of Kulgachi in the district of Burdwan Here he married the daughter of the late Bhavani Das Tarkabagish, a rich inhabitant of the village of Krishnabati of the same district, and got the village of Kashipur as dowry from his father-in law Thenceforth the family is known as the " Sanyals of Kulgachi."

Ramachandra, the fourth in descent from Shibaram, had three sons Harishchandra, Brajanath and Debnath Debnath married the late Sreemati Kanakmoni Devi, a daughter of the late Rashbehari Brajabasi of Chinsurah, in the district of Hooghly Rashbehari was for many years the Dewan of the Silk Factory at Kasimbazar in the district of Murshidabad and worked with reputation and to the satisfaction of his superior officers In his old age he got his son-in law Debnath appointed in his post and retired from service. Rashbehari was the master of a vast property, both movable and immovable. Debnath served for a number of years as the Dewan of the Silk Factory at Kasimbazar. His superior officers were highly satisfied with his work, After some years of meritorious services Debnath retired from service and went back to his native village of Kulgachi where he spent the remaining days of his life. Rashbehari being sonless Debnath succeeded to his property, by virtue of the will of Rashbehari, after his death Debnath increased the movable

Babu Rajendranath Sanyal, Zemindar
Sankèrpur Estate

and immovable property inherited from his father-in-law. Debnath's name is still famous as he was one of those few who fed a lakh of Brambins sumptuously. The dust of the feet of those lakh of Brambins is still preserved by the descendants of his youngest son, Jadunath. Debnath had many sons, but four of them Sreenath, Sitanath, Dinanath and Jadunath—survived him. He died on the 24th May 1837, leaving property both movable and immovable to the extent in value of Rs 1,500,000 or thereabouts.

Subsequent to the death of Debnath his sons up to the death of his second son, Sitanath, constituted a Hindu family joint in food, worship and estate and with the several members of the household resided in the family dwelling houses at Kulgachi and at Kasimbazar The Kasimbazar house, still known as the "Sanyal Kuthi," has been sold long ago and is now the family residence of the late Raja Ashutosh Nath Roy of Kasimbazar.

Sreenath, the eldest of Debnath's son was a lunatic from the age of sixteen years or so And, the second son, Sitanath, was appointed by Debnath as the Executor of his estate in his last will The third Dinanath was born deaf and dumb and died unmarried in 1839 On Sitanath's death at Kulgachi on the 8th January 1841 the youngest Jadunath, who had attained majority by this time, was appointed as the Executor to the estate by the last will of Sitanath. At the time of Sitanath's death of his wife, the late Brajakumari Devi, was enciente and after his death gave birth to a son, Gobindanath, who died at the age of 8 years in 1849. Jadunath continued as the Executor to the estate from the death of Sitanath up to the 24th June 1852.

On the 18th September 1845 Jadunath instituted a suit, suit No. 47 of 1845, for self and as next friend of his nephew, Gobindanath—son of Sitanath, in the Court of the Principal Sudder Ameen of the Twenty Four Pergannas against

his mother Kanakmoni and his sister in-law Brajakumari, mother of Gobindanath, for the recovery of Rs. 11,49,892–15–7, 7 gundas–2 cowries The suit was decreed in favour of Jadunath Suits and cross suits followed till the affair was amicably settled on the 24th June 1852 by filing Rajeenama and Safeenama by Brajakumari and Jadunath respectively Separate petitions were put in by Kanakmoni and by Jadunath's two wives— the late Nrirtyakali Devi and the late Madhumati Devi—consenting to the settlement. A Consent Decree was made on the 28th June 1852 by the Sudder Dewani Adalut ,in the terms of the Rajeenama and the Safeenama.

The share to which Brajakumari was entitled as heir to her deceased son Gobindanath, (who died in 1849), according to the terms of the Rajeenama and Safeenama, was of the value of about Rs 2,00,000 It was sold, in or about the the year 1855, for the debts contracted by Brajakumari and was purchased by Kanakmoni, and subsequently by Mooktakeshi for and on behalf of her lunatic husband Sreenath.

On Jadunath' filing the Suit No 47 of 1845 against his mother Kanakmoni for the recovery of Rs 11,40,892–15–7 7 gundas-2 cowries a good deal of ill-feeling and animosity was created between the mother and the son Kanakmoni removed herself from Kulgachi to Bally, in the district of Howrah, where she bought a big house with adjoining gardens and began to live there The good feeling between the mother and the son being restored after some years. Kanakmoni lived with her sons and other members of her family sometimes at Kulgachi and sometimes at Bally

Jadunath married the late Nrittyakali Devi, a daughter of the late Shibsankar Bhattacharyya of Mertala, in the district of Burdwan, who was regarded as one of the most learned Pandits of his time As no son was born to them Jadunath married a second wife the late Madhumati Devi,

the sister of Mooktakeshi Sreenath's wife. Madhumati died child-less in the life-time of her husband Jadunath

By an order of the Supreme Court, dated the 2nd July 1846, it was ordered that Sreemati Kanakmoni Devi, mother of the lunatic Sreenath, and Henry Chapman Esq of Calcutta, Presidency Surgeon in the service of the late Hon'ble East India Company in their Bengal establishment, were appointed Committee of the person of the said lunatic and from time to time reasonable allowances were paid to the family member of the committee of the said lunatic from the income of the funds in the said court to the credit of the lunatic for his maintenance as well as for the maintenance of the other members of the family.

Kanakmoni died at Bally on the 3rd January 1865 leaving her surviving the said lunatic Sreenath Jadunath, her only two sons's heirs and legal representatives. Under an order of the High Court, dated the 14th March 1865, Jadunath was appointed Committee of the person of the lunatic Sreenath jointly with Dr Charles Palmer

On the death of Jadunath at Bali on the 29th September 1876 there being no adult male members of the family, the senior female member Mooktakeshi, wife of the lunatic, was appointed, by the High Court in December 1876, Committee of the person of her husband in the place of Jadunath. Mooktakeshi died on the 16th September 1877 By an order of the High Court of the 28th January 1878 the late Nrittyakali Devi widow of Jadunath was appointed Committee of the person of the lunatic till his death on the 20th January 1892.

By an order of the late Supreme Court, dated the 2nd July 1846, mentioned before, it was also directed that the lunatic Sreenath should be brought down from his family residence at Kulgachi to the suburbs of Calcutta so that the Presidency Surgeon, appointed as a member of the Commit-

tee of the person of the lunatic, might attend upon him on an annual fee of Rs 1000 to be paid from the sum allotted by the Supreme Court for the maintenance of the lunatic.

In pursuance of the said Order Sreenath was, on the 22nd July 1846, brought down from the dwelling house at Kulgachi to a house at Bhowanipur in the suburbs of Calcutta where he resided for several years and was afterwards removed to a house at Chitpore in calcutta and thence to the house at Bally, about 8 miles from Calcutta, which was bought by his mother Kanakmoni

Owing to ill health Mooktakeshi, Sreenath's wife, who had been constituted and acted as Trustee and Manager of the zemindaries belonging to her husband's estate, applied, sometime in the year 1867, to the Judge of Burdwan to take charge of the same, and thereupon the said Judge took charge of the same and by reason of the larger portion of the zemindary being situated in the district of Dinajpur, made over the same to the Collector of Dinajpur under the Court of Wards, which was in possession of the same till the 1st February 1898.

Having no son born to them Jadunath and Nrittyakali determined to adopt a son The choice fell on an infant son of 3 years and 2 months, the eighth child of Nrittyakali's youngest sister, the late Sreemati Khyamakali Devi (better known as Prasanna Moyi Devi) and the late Parbati Charan Sanyal of Mertala in the district of Burdwan. This boy who was born on the 14th April 1873, was made over by his natural parents to Jadunath and Nrittyakali on the 13th June 1876 and was adopted after proper rites according to the Hindu Sastras, on the 2nd day of August 1876 as the son of Jadunath and Nrittyakali. After the adoption the boy received the name of Rajendra Nath Sanyal But, unfortunately, before all the rites of the adoption ceremony were completed Jadunath breathed his last at Bally on the 29th September 1876. On the same day Jadunath made

and published his last Will or Deed of Permission and Guardianship in the Bengali language, appointing his wife Nrittyakali the sole executrix of his property and the Guardian of his minor son Rajendra Nath Sanyal Subsequent to the death of Jadunath and after the expiration of the mourning period of one year Nrittyakali caused the remaining ceremonial acts to be performed on the 18th day of November 1877 at the ancestral family dwelling house at Kulgachi according to the Hindu Sastras in the presence of several respectable gentlemen and relatives and fully and completely adopted Rajendra Nath as the son of her husband and herself according to the permission accorded and directions given by the aforesaid Will of Jadunath

Rajendranath was acknowledged, after the death of Jadunath, by the Court of Wards as the only nephew and sole heir to his uncle, Sreenath. He was educated by the Court of Wards, under the Tutor Guardian, Babu Radhanath Roy, appointed by the said Court, at first at the Uttarpara Government School in the district of Hooghly and then at the Hare School, Calcutta He appeared for the Entrance Examination in 1891 from the Hare School but was unfortunately unsuccessful Being dejected he gave up his studies.

Rajendranath was married in 1891 to Sreemati Panna Sundari Devi, the youngest daughter of the late Degumber Moitry of Kambuliatolla in Calcutta who was one of the leading Attorneys of his time Degumber died long before this marriage.

Sreenath died on the 20th January 1892, leaving considerable property both movable and immovable. The movable property consisted of a sum of Rs. 3,00,000 in the hands of the Administrator General of the Calcutta High Court and the accumulated rents of the Zemindaries at Dinajpur, amounting to a large sum, in the hands of the Collector of Dinjapur The Court of Wards had since the

death of Jadunath, the charge and the control of the person of Rajendranath, during the life-time of Sreenath and up to the release of the estate, as the only nephew and the sole heir of Sreenath and had all along recognised and treated him as such. But after Sreenath's death two other claimants, besides the legal heir Rajendranath, to Sree Nath's property appeared They were the late Woodoy Chandra Sanyal, adoptod by Brajakumari as the son of her husband Sitanath (Sreenath's second brother) after the death of her natural son Gobindanath, and the late Eshan Chandra Sanyal the youngest son Harish Chandra Debnath's (Sreenath's father's) eldest brother, as next-of-kin Each of the three claimants declared himself as the sole heir of Sreenath As a result a big law suit followed in the Original Side of the Calcutta High Court At the intervention of mutual friends and relatives a compromise was effected by the three claimants on the 6th September 1894, by which Rajendranath obtained 8 annas, Woodoychandra 5 annas and Eshan Chandra 3 annas share of the property left by Sreenath. A decree was made by consent in those terms in the Burdwan Court and upon the basis of that compromise an order was made in the Calcutta High Court declaring the rights of Rajendranath, Woodoy Chandra and Eshan Chandra according to the shares mentioned above and directing that Letters of Administration should issue jointly to them Shortly after the compromise Woodoy Chandra and Eshan Chandra died. Sreemati Sarvamangala Devi, Woodoy Chandra's daughter and the late Nabin Chandra Sanyal Eshanchandra's son, inherited their respective father's shares. Letters of Administration was issued jointly to Rajendranath, Sarvamangala and Eshanchandra by the Calcutta High Court on the 19th March 1896 on payment of Administration Duty of Rs. 12,800 by the three claimants according to their own shares But on account of a case brought by Rai Harendra

Lal Roy Bahadur against Sreemati Sarvamangala Devi regarding a Deed of Assignment between the Rai Bahadur and Woodoy Chandra, Sarvamangala's father, the release of the estate was deferred

The estate was released by the Court of Wards on the 1st February 1898 and the three proprietors—Rajendranath Sarvamangala and Nabinchandra took over the management of the estate from the Manager, appointed by the court of Wards on the 15th February 1898. The estate has not yet been partitioned but is managed by a joint staff of officers; the net income of the estate is divided among the proprietors according to their respective shares The family residence at Kulgachi was divided among the proprietors according to their respective shares but the dwelling house at Bally together with the adjoining gardens fell solely to the share of Rajendranath. The house has been practically rebuilt after the great earthquake of 1897 On account of the insanitary condition of Bally and of the prevalence of Malaria Babu Rajendrnath was in the United Provinces with his family for twelve years, sometimes at Benares and sometimes at Allahabad from 1909 to 1921.

It is a fact worth mentioning that the co-sharers heartily and cordially co-operate with one another The estate is known as the Sankerpur Estate which lies in the districts of Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Bogra, Malda, Murshidabad and Burdwan—the bulk being at Dinajpur. The gross annual income of the estate is about ninety thousand rupees at present the annual Land Revenue that is paid to the Government amounts to about thirty six thousand rupees The headquarters of the estate is at Balurghat in the district of Dinajpur.

Babu Rajendranath is one of the most influential Zemindars of the Dinajpur district He is given the fourth place in the District Durbars He was one of the few Zemindars of the district who were granted the privilege of private interviews with H. E. Sir Bamfylde Fuller and H. E. Sir

Lancelot Hare—the Lieutenant Governors of Eastern Bengal and Assam and with H E. Lord Carmichael and H E. Lord Ronaldshay—the Governors of Bengal—when they visited, Dinajpur The Divisional Commissioners and the District Officers have all along been highly pleased with Babu Rajendra Nath. Mr C R Marindin formerly Commissioner of Rajshahi, Division, was on very intimate terms with Rajendranath as he was a District Magistrate of Dinajpur when Rajendranath was a minor under the Court of Wards.

When the Sub-Division of Balurghat was first created in 1904 Babu Rajendranath and his co-sharers, Sreemati Sarvamangala Devi and Babu Nabin Chandra Sanyal, made a free gift of their half share in the land, measuring 63 bighas, 16 cottahs and 2 chitaks, valued at Rs 1080-5-2, for the construction of the Sub divisional buildings at Balurghat For this act of their liberality the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal was pleased to convey his thanks to the donors by Notification No 1714 L R, of the Government of Bengal, dated the 24th January 1905, published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 29th March 1905

Babu Rajendranath and his co-sharers contributed Rs 3,500 for the construction of the Charitable Dispensary Building at Balurghat in memory of the late Sreenath Sanyal, whose heirs they are. For this act of their liberality the Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam was pleased to convey his thanks to the donors by the Notification No 11379 of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, dated the 10th October 1906, published in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Gazette of the 13th October 1906.

By the liberality and untiring zeal of Babu Rajendranath and by the most cordial sympathy and indefatigable energy of Babu Atul Chandra Dutt M A, B L, the first Sub-Divisional Officer of Balurghat, the Balurghat M E School was raised to the standard of a High English School in March 1907.

On account of his liberality and public spirit Babu Rajendranath was one of the receipients of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor's Coronation Medal at a Durbar at Dinajpur on the 27th May 1912

Babu Rajendranath was an Honorary Magistrate of the Balurghat Bench from 1905 to 1914, a member of the Balurghat Local Board from 1906 to 1912, a Commissioner of the Bally Municipality (Dt. Howrah) from 1900 to 1903. He was again appointed an Honorary Magistrate of the Balurghat Bench in 1919 The powers of a Magistrate of the second class and the single-sitting power were conferred on him in 1920. He has again been reappointed as an Honorary Magistrate in 1922. He is a Non-official Visitor to the Balurghat Sub Jail from 1918 He is the Vice-President of the Balurghat H. E School Committees, a member of the Managing Committees of the Balurghat Charitable Dispensary and of the Balurghat Girl's School and one of the 'Founders and Benefactors' of the Dainhat H.E. School (Burdwan) He is a liberal subscriber to H E. and Girls' Schools at Balurghat, Dinajpur and Dainhat and to the Dispensaries at Balurghat, Dinajpur, Naogaon (Rajshahi), Mahadebpur (Rajshahi), Isabpur (Dinajpur) and Dainhat (Burdwan)

Babu Rajendranath is a Freemason He was a member and office-bearer of " Lodge St. Thomas in the East, Calcutta," a member of the " Sir Andrew Fraser Lodge," Burdwan, and one of the Founders and members of ' Lodge Fitze," Serampore

Mr F W Strong I C. S , formerly Collector of Dinajpur, writes in his Dinajpur District Gazetteer (Page 127–128) . "

.... There is a large and well found hospital–dispensary maintained principally by private subscriptions, the local zemindar, Babu Rajendra Nath Sanyal, being a liberal subscriber. This gentleman, who lives in the imme-

diate vicinity, was not long since a ward under the Court of Wards and still maintains the former European Manager's bungalow as a guest-house, at which Government officials on tour are made welcome .. . ."

Mahamaopadhyaya Panditraj Yadaveswar Tarkaratna Kavisamarat of Rangpur has written highly of Bàbu Rajendranath in the Agrahayan number of the Bengali Monthly Magazine "Bharatvarsha of 1322 B. S. under the heading "Barnamalar Sanmilaney" (Page 1119) The English translation of a few portions of the said article is given below :—

"On some occasion I had been to Allahabad as the guest of Babu Rajendra Nath Sanyal, inhabitant of Bally and Zemindar of Balurghat in the district of Dinajpur,* and lived there for a fortnight But though coming from a rich family, the habits and traits that characterise Sanyal Mahasaya (Mr Sanyal) throughout his daily life are not like those of a modern scion of wealth and rank, nor, indeed they resemble what we know to have distinguished the rich families of a past generation but they are in fact like those of middle-class gentlemen of former times. Not that the modern English education, which creates the very atomosphere of every Indian's life at the present day, was denied to Rajendra Babu ; he has had a liberal training in English. But the anglicised atmosphere, so universal elsewhere, seems instead of penetrating the sanctity of his inner domestic life, to have missed it altogether, and to be hanging as a thin veil just outside. None of the children of his house, it is a remarkable fact, take their daily meals without performing their prayers according to the orthodox Hindu mode—their 'Sandhya' The mind veritably swells with delight at the sight, it reminded me so typically of a Hindu family that had had its existence fully fifty years ago. That ancient Hindu ideals and Hindu culture have not entirely disappeared in Bengal and still tarry in but one solitary and sacred Hindu

home in all their primitive glory did, indeed, fill me with feelings of pride and self-dignity Although this narrative does in no way concern the present theme, still it is but a fitting and sacred prelude to it—I relate it as but such.

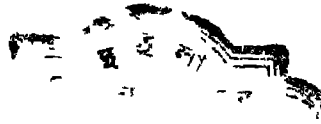
Another Bengali monthly magazine, the Manasi, has commented on the above-mentioned article of Mahamahopadhyaya Yadaveshwar Tarkaratna, in its Pous number (Page 605) of 1322 B S The English translation of the comment is given below —

In the article "Barnamalar Sanmilan" contributed by Sree Jadaveshwar Tarkaratna the description of the Sanyal family yields a touch of permanent interest, and the delight which it affords to the reader is deep and lasting—the rest of the essay is of passing moment

Babu Rajendranath bears a very broad mind and a generous heart Many relatives have found permanent shelter under his roof and are being maintained as members of his own family Many students have been and are being educated at his own expense by Babu Rajendranath, who is a lover of learning He is a sympathetic friend of the poor and the distressed We know of many instances of his generosity in giving up his claim to large sums of money borrowed from him by many persons in the belief that they spoke the real truth when they expressed their inability to pay the sums back In this way he lost nearly fifty thousand rupees.

Babu Rajendranath has an only son, Jitendranath, who was born on the 19th January 1893 No other child was born to him, Jitendranath passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University in the First Division from Bally Rivers Thompson School and obtained a scholarship from the school for two years. He then passed the I Sc. Examination of the Allahabad University in the Second Division from Muir Central College, Allahabad and the B. A·

Examination of the Benares Hindu University from Central Hindu College, Benares He has completed the M A. course in Ancient Indian History and Culture from the University College, Calcutta. He had to leave the University Law College, Calcutta, from the middle of the Third year Class to help his father in the management of his estate. He is a Member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Jitendranath was married in 1912 to Rajkumari Suruchi Devi, the youngest grand-daughter of the late Raja Jogendranath Roy of Nator and the youngest sister of Kumar Birendranath Roy B. A , the prsent proprietor of the Nator Raj, Junior Branch. Jitendranath has one son, Narendranath and two daughters Sreemati Kamala and Sreemati Savitri. He has been appointed an Honorary Magistrate of the Balurghat Bench on the 15th December 1922.

BABU HEM CHANDRA CHOWDHURY
ZEMINDAR OF AMBARIA

A SHORT HISTORY OF AMBARIA ZEMINDAR FAMILY.

THE founder of the Ambaria Zemindar Family was Bhattanarayan one of the five illustrious Brahmins invited by Adisur, king of Gour It is not known for certain when the family shifted from the West to the East Bengal. In East Bengal the original home of Family was at the village "Chandani" now called "Char Chandani" in the district of Mymensingh At "Chandani" the Family lived long in affluence, but after a serious robbery in the house, the Family removed to Ambaria a village about 20 miles to the east near Madhupur

While at Ambaria the Family purchased a four-anna share of Pargana Pukharia and the property gradually increased and extended over other districts The Family has all along been enjoying a reputation for piety, liberality, love for education, arrangements done for the convenience of the pilgrims to the holy places, aids to the distressed and the destitute, contributions to hospitals and educational institutions, and religious celebrations performed with great eclat. Very strict and scrupulous adherence to the old rites and customs of a Hindu is the special trait of this Family

Babu Ramgopal Chowdhury, great great grandfather of Babu Hem Chandra Chowdhury, was a man of extraordinary intellect and force of mind, by assiduous application of which he amassed a great fortune. He had a thorough knowledge of Persian. Babu Padmalochan Chowdhury, his worthy son, was very amiable, upright, pious and was a devoted votary of his religion. His son Babu Kali Chandra Chowdhury was a man of exceptional merit and uncommon

strength of mind He was thoroughly versed in English, Persian and Sanskrit languages and started a library at his house. His religious performances like Purashcharan secured him the love and veneration of the people around. In the hottest months of Chait and Baisak he used to sit for the whole day before a blazing sacrificial fire making holy offerings to it of clarified butter etc. without taking food during the daytime and taking only the scantiest food at night after which he slept on a common mat on the floor Though ascetically disposed he was not insensible to the calls of social amenities of life He encouraged all sorts of amusements and games both indoor and outdoor and freely mixed with all classes of people without distinction His unimpeachable and lofty character was a pleasant mixture of luxury and asceticism He was a prince and a jogi at the same time.

Babu Hem Chandra Chowdhury, worthy son of a worthy father, was born at Ambaria about half a centuary ago. He lost his father at an early age when he had to face troubles and difficulties incidental to the inheritence of a big Zemindary But all these he smoothly and manfully conquered with the invaluable assistance of his late lamented brother-in-law Babu Nil Kanta Ganguly After coming of age he considerably added to his paternal property which now extends over the districts of Mymensingh, Pabna, Decca, Tipperah in Bengal and the districts of Sylhet in Assam On account of the rigour of malaria he had to leave his paternal home of Ambaria for Subarnakhali a beautiful place very near to the bank of the river Jumna But a few years after, Subarnakhali being threatened by the erosions of the river he had to shift to a new site, 2 miles east in the interior, and called the village after his own name Here he has built a palatial house, with big tanks and wells, spacious gardens, lawns and play grounds, telegraph and post

offices, charitable dispensary, a High English School and Tol for Sanskrit teaching and guest houses for Indians and Europeans The dispensary, the school and the Tol are maintained by him.

Almost in every respect Babu Hem Chandra Chowdhury holds his father before his eyes as his ideal and has been throughout his life reverentially following in the latter's footsteps His unostentatious and simple habits, uncommon patience, broad sympathy for all, completely unblemished and godlike character, love and affection for his friends and relations both distant and near, his devout and perfect reliance upon the Almighty and his unshaken and implicit faith in his own religion have secured him a situation in the society far above that of the general run of people Above all, it is remarkable that inspite of the influx or Western education into his family he has kept his oriental ideas perfectly spotless and modelled his family accordingly He is well read in Bengali and has a good knowledge of English. His knowledge in Sanskrit and Hindi is very fair He has got a wonderful imitative faculty and the retentiveness of his memory is simply astonishing He can speak with fluency Hindi, English, and different dialects of this and other districts, can quote a good many poems, recite histories of various kinds and anecdotes of all sorts. He never forgets any one who has once come across him Unlike others he is a resident Zemindar and lives among his tenants and always looks after their interests.

He has got four sons and four daughters Of his sons Babu Heramba Chandra, Chowdhury, Gangesh Chandra Chowdhury, Profullah Chandra Chaudhury, and Jogesh Chandra Chowdhury, three are Graduates They are all of an affable and amiable disposition and possess high moral character Notwithstanding their English education and foreign influence in which they have to move they have not

strayed away from their own religion and strictly oriental ideas.

Babu Hem Chandra Chowdhury maintains along with others, the following Charitable institutions at his own costs:—

(1) An *Annasatra* at Benares where about hundred Brahmins and poor men are fed daily free of costs

(2) Two rest houses at Hemnager' one for Europeans, and the other for Indians, the guests of the latter class number about 20 on an average daily and are fed free of cost without any distinction of creed and colour.

(3) Two charitable, Dispensaries one at Hemnager and the other at Ambaria, his original residence

(4) One H. E. School at Hemnager the entire cost of which his borne by him

(5) Daily distribution of alms, food clothes etc to the poor throughout the year

NAWAB SYED NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI
KHAN BAHADUR, C I E

NAWAB SYED NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI KHAN BAHADUR C I E,

ZEMINDAR OF DANBARIA

TRACING his descent to the time of the Emperor Jehangir who conferred on the founder of the house the estate of Dhanbari, Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri belongs to one of the oldest families of Bengal. From his early years he has interested himself in public affairs and has done much practical work as a Honorary Magistrate, Municipal Commissioner, member of the District Board and claim a continuous record of service to his community by his connection in one capacity or another with the various institutions for the advancement of the Mahomedans He has paid special attention to the education of his community and has had considerable scope for his activities in that direction as a member of the Calcutta University Senate, the Dacca University Committee, the Governing Body of the Presidency College Calcutta and the Permanent Mahomedan Educational Advisory Committee

He has been one of the oldest members of the Bengal Legislative Council and has a record of seventeen years as a Legislator He was also for a term on the Imperial Legislative Council as the representative of the Mahomedan community of Eastern Bengal His choice as one of the first Ministers under the reforms was only in the fitness of things He was entrusted with the portfolio of Agriculture and Industries and Public Works and Excise It is common knowledge with what success he administered those subjects. He has always held to the view that much of the misery of the cultivating classes is to be attributed to ignorance and with the spread of education among the ryots will come

agricultural development as well But he would insist upon their being given the kind of education which would fit them better for their hereditary calling He has no faith in a uniform standard of education for all During his ministry he directed the work of his department to the education of the agriculturists. The following statement will give the reader an idea of his policy in regard to the education of the masses —

The basic idea in my policy was and is the betterment of the masses The pitiable plight of millions of our cultivators needs no description You see it all round you. What is at the root of that state of affairs? When you resolve them into their elements you will find that the root cause of the evils of the cultivators and artizans of Bengal is lack of education Through lack of education they are unable to assert their rights—they do not even know their rights, and they are terrorized and exploited by traders, shop-keepers, money lenders, petty officials of Government and of *Zamindars* Through lack of education they know nothing of the advanced processes of agriculture, and little of the markets in which the produce of their toil is sold. Through lack of education they are unable to appreciate the benefits of combination and co-operation Through lack of education they fail to realise the importance of their cattle and the necessity of caring for their cattle Through lack of education they are the victims of every cheat and parasite whose wits are sharp enough to trade on them Through lack of education they permit touts and other evil men to foment quarrels and litigation among them and thus they are deprived of even the scanty portion which they have managed to save from the fruits of their labour and are driven into the servitude of debt and usury from which there is no escape but the grave Thus I determined that the first necessity for the people is to educate them By this education I do

not mean merely teaching them how to read and write and divorcing them from their natural callings, their hereditary professions, converting them into incompetent candidates for clerical and sedentary callings The education I conceived was a practical education allied to the vocation of the pupil The cultivator must be taught to read and write, but he must be also taught the practice of his profession, the simple economics of his calling, the better methods of agriculture, the better methods of manuring, the better choosing of seeds, the better marketing of his goods and the better means of combining and co operating to this end."

When he was Minister he was not content with merely adumbrating his policy. He started two schools on two agricultural farms run by the Government for the benefit of the sons of agriculturists who were also given stipends It is an example of practical effort which Ministers of Agriculture and Industries in other provinces may well follow

In the Industries Department his work as Minister is bearing fruit He has either initiated industries or helped in the starting of them At present, cutlery, bell, metal, soap, card-board and paper industries are helped by the Industries Department

In politics, the Nawab has always taken a sane line A genuine patriot, he does not believe in the advancement of India without British connection and without British guidance. His definition of swaraj is a Government in which the Mahomedans will be represented as they ought to be with full powers to develop the country on national lines, in loyalty to the King-Emperor

BABU BHUBAN MOHAN BOSE.

BABU Bhuban Mohan Bose was born in February 1874 at Pingla in the District of Midnapur, Bengal This village have been his ancestral home for over two centuries and is one of the most enlightened and progressive villages in the District and is inhabited by Brahmins and Kayasthas of high order The family he belongs to takes leading part in the improvement of the village and in making it a foremost one in the District The late Babu Bagola Charan Bose, father of Babu Bhuban Mohan, was a land-holder of considerable repute and was a man of religious temperament and did numerous acts of piety and religion, to mention a few, such as installation of idols, and Toola purusa Dan ceremony etc (acts of extreme gratification in days gone by) and many other acts of humanism His grandfather Kailaseswar was a good Koohin–Kayastha and was a poet and was noted for his honesty and straight forwardness in transactions

Babu Bhuban Mohan, enlightened and educated as he is, inherited many qualities of head and heart from his ancestors His first act of generosity and public spirit was that he became the donar in the Starting of a Charitable Dispensary in his native village which is now a District Board's Dispensary His generosity in other matters and to persons of straightened circumstances is well known. His liberal minded support to the Local High English School and his relieving concessions necessary for its upkeep were appreciated by all alike. In all calamities that overtook his district from time to time his name was to be found in the list of donors and letters conveying blessings for relieving distress from persons are not rare He was Secretary to the

Local H. E. School for sometime with credit to himself and to the advantage of the institution. He was chairman of the Local Union Committee with extremely satisfactory career and is in touch with the modern co-operative movement and was a member of the Sub-Divisional Board for sometime too, and is associated with all public matters One would see with satisfaction his name in the list of donars to the Bengalee Battalion Patriotic Fund and other such kindred movements for the king and the country during the great German war

The small estate he owns pays revenue to Government to the extent of Rs 6,500 in round number and is well managed and peaceful

Babu Bhuban Mohan has recently been made a Life Member to the local H E School Committee as well as to the local Charitable Dispensary Committee

RAJA RESHEE CASE LAW, C.I E, M L.C.

THE subject of this short sketch, Raja Reshee Case Law. C I.E, M.L C., is a scion of one of the most opulent and influential aristocratic families of Bengal His father the late Maharaja Durga Churn Law, C I E was in his day looked upon as the Bengali Merchant-Prince of Calcutta and had greatly endeared himself to his countrymen by his benevolent feelings and munificent contributions to various object and institutions of public utility He enjoyed in an uncommon degree the confidence alike of the Government and of the European and the Indian communities, and was a most valued member of both the Imperial and the Provincial Legislative Councils He was the architect of the colossal fortune of the family of which he was the honoured head and his genius for commerce was unrivalled. It was Prawn Kissen Law, Durga Churn's father, who established the firm which still bears his name and which is one of the oldest mercantile houses in Calcutta Under the capable direction of Maharaja Durga Churn ably assisted by his brothers Shama Churn and Joy Gobinda, the firm rose to the pinnacle of prosperity

Raja Reshee Case, is the younger of the two sons of Maharaja Durga Churn He was born in May 1852 and received his education at the Hindu School and the Presidency College He was however not destined to win high academical honours, as his father took him away from the the College when he was nineteen years of age and straightway initiated him into mercantile business He had to learn it from the very beginning and commenced his career at the lowest rung of the ladder He was put in the firm of Messrs Kelly & Co, as an apprentice so that he could get a thorough insight into the intricacies of the export

RAJA KESHEE CASE LAW, C.I.E

business and acquire a first-hand knowledge of the management of a European firm in all its diffierent branches In addition he had to look after the business of his father in that firm as banian and in the morning he had to assist his father in conducting the business of his rapidly expanding firm in the Import department After having thus served out his seven years probationership, Reshee Case was transferred to his father's firm, styled "Prawn Kissen Law & Co." already referred to. We next find him acquiring a knowledge of the management of the extensive zemindary properties of his family as an assistant to his uncle Shama Churn who was in charge of that most important department. Shama Churn's ill-health a few months after, threw the entire burden of management of what are the largest zamindaries in Bengal upon the shoulders of young Reshee Case when he was only twenty six years of age Here again according to the wholesome practice of the family, Reshee Case had to begin from the beginning but soon acquired proficiency by the keenness of his intellect and his unflagging industry He was thus pre destined, even in his early youth to scorn delights and live laborious days Not for him was the soft bed of indolence and repose

In Bengal it is almost the invariable practice of big zemindars to leave the managements to their officers This was however repugnant to the traditions of the Law family Reshee Case kept the whole management in his own hands and thereby acquired a through mastery of the technicalities of the subject which made him independent of the help of subordinates and enabled him to prevent oppressions and abuses In this work he was to a certain extent assisted by some of the junior members of the family It is this method of direct supervision and management which accounts for the fact that the administration of the Law estates has been uniformly sympathetic and successful, that cases of unpleasantness have seldom arisen between the

zemindars and their tenants and that few estates can point to such a clean record Of course a certain amount of delegation of powers is necessary to subordinates, but in the Law estates it has never been allowed to overstep legitimate bounds Thus, a long standing practice have given rise to principles and a system by following which succeeding generations will be able to ensure efficient and successful management This is certainly not the least precious inheritance which will be bequeathed to them Pressure of public duties and engagements, in the multiplicity of which he stands unapproached by any Bengali gentleman living or dead has however compelled Raja Reshee Case to leave the management of his zemindaries to his two sons, but every morning he makes it a point to receive reports and give instructions for their guidance

At the same time the many-sided commercial activities of the family also claimed his closest attention He had to attend regularly to the business of his father's firm and as if this was not sufficient to give full pay to his over-flowing energy, he longed for further independent responsibility His father with a view to give him free scope for his commercial aptitude, permitted him to start jointly with his brother and cousins a firm of their own in the eighties of the last century, and thus there came into existence the firm of Kristodas Law & Co named after his elder brother, Raja Kristodas Law who is still happily in our midst The new firm started business in various commodities from hardware to yarns This firm was intended to afford a training-ground to the younger members of the family to qualify them for taking part in the fulness of time in the work of the bigger firm He has now ceased taking any active part in the commercial business of this firm, having found fit successors in the succeeding generation With his unique experience, it is no wonder that he should be regarded as the greatest Indian authority on trade and commerce on this

side of India. He has for many years been President of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and a Commissioner of the Calcutta Port Trust Among the other public offices which he holds may be mentioned the following — A member of the Corporation of Calcutta, a member of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum, a member of the Local Consulting Committee of the E I and the E B Railway, the first non official Chairman of the District Board of the Twenty-Four Perganas, the first Indian Director of the Imperial Bank, Honorary Secretary for the past ten years of the British Indian Association, the premier Political Association in India, a member of the Bengal Legislative Council; a member of the Executive Committee of the Victoria Memorial Fund besides various Insurance and Railway directorates Thus he has to attend between twenty to twenty-five Committee Meetings every week In addition he had been a member of various occasional Committees appointed by Government

It would be superfluous to state that in so many different capacities the Raja has been able to render signal service to Government and the people in various matters For instance, on the Railway Committee he has often voiced grievances relating to transport and other matters of vital importance to the commercial community As a Municipal Commissioner, he was largely instrumental in securing an equitable settlement of the question of the "Square mile," in which he was undoubtedly aided by his Zemindari experience His note on Gas Lighting evincing a thorough knowledge of the subject and an uptodate information on street lighting in the principal cities of Europe resulted in an annual saving of over a lakh of rupees, to the Calcutta Corporation As a member of the Port Facilities Committee, he saved Hathkhola from its threatened removal which had been recommended by all his colleagues and it was his

Note of Dissent which was accepted by Government. As a member of the Improvement Trust his voice has often been raised to soften the harshness of the acquisition proceedings and many a house-owner whom he has thus relieved will remember him with gratitude As a member of the Conference held at Government House to consider the question of a Technological Institute he earnestly supported the proposal To his fellow land-holders he has rendered various services as the Honorary Secretary to their Association. Bengali literature is also under deep obligation to him It was his successful protest against the proscription of a famous Bengali drama which resulted in the cancellation of the order of proscription Referring to his protest an Anglo-Indian paper wrote as follows —" With the perkiness of a new-fledged Graduate of the Calcutta University, the Raja then drags in an analogy of the Restoration Dramas in English literature, quoting Macaulay, Gosse, Saintsbury and Young in defence" of the proscribed drama

The Raja was offered by Government a seat in the Imperial Legislative Council but he declined the offer The leading Commercial paper of Calcutta commented on his refusal as follows —"It is an open secret that the Raja was much distressed when he heard that Lord Carmichael wished him to be the Indian Commercial Member in the Imperial Legislative Council and rejoiced when the honour was shifted" to his nominee He is "not lacking in patriotism but he is wise enough to perceive that he serves India best by serving Calcutta first and last".

The Raja has been prominently associated with various public bodies the object of which is to relieve the distress of the poor or to mitigate the sufferings of the people affected by famine or flood He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund Bengal branch of the Imperial Indian Relief fund, was Joint Secretary of the Burdwan Division Flood Relief Fund and

also of the Eastern Bengal Flood Relief Fund He is Honorary Secretary to Maharaj Mata Shibo Soondary Debi Hindu Widows Fund and Brahmamoyi Hindu Orphans Fund; Governor of the Calcutta Refuge and President of the Calcutta Branch of the Anath Bhander, Ramkrishna Mission. He is also Vice-President and Trustee of the Ram Mohan Library, and Trustee and for sometime Honorary Treasurer of the Indian Museum and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons He has been distinguished for his liberal donations to objects of public utility in Calcutta and in several Districts and for his daily and monthly charities and stipends to the indigent and needy His firm has contributed Rs 75,000/- to the Benares Hindu University Fund and Rs 80,000/- for the construction of Water-works at Chinsura, the original home of his family He has ever been mindful of the needs of men of his own caste and has been for several years the President of the Subarnabanik Samaj It was mainly through his initiative that an All-Bengal Conference of his caste-men was brought about five years ago

In his private life the Raja is simple and absolutely free from ostentation As a speaker he eschiews rhetoric and declamation and relies mainly on facts and figures His moderation and thoughtfulness ensures great respect for his opinion on public questions His firm has been pre-eminent for its commercial honesty and integrity and its untarnished record for close upon a century Equally striking is his habit of industry He is hard at work from sunrise to sunset and sometimes his multifarious public duties keep him engaged till a late hour in the evening, an astonishing record for a man who is verging on seventy In 1912 the Government conferred upon him the double honour of the title of Raja and C I E in recognation of his public services and in 1915 he was made Sheriff of Calcutta

We shall close this sketch by quoting some of the public Press about his capacity and character Referring to his appointment to the Shrievalty of Calcutta, a leading Calcutta paper wrote as follows —' It was a real pleasure to hear that the Government has recognized the sturdy, albeit unostentations, civism of Raja Reshee Case Law by appointing him Sheriff of Calcutta for 1915 He is a Bengali gentleman of the old school which did so much to help the East India Company to establish itself in Bengal He is long-headed man of business with a conspicuous talent for public finance The Calcutta Municipality, the Port Trust, the Bengal Government themselves have profited much by his advice and guidance in this direction and were he not so modest, his fame as a financier would be imperial There are many men in the public eye whom Sir William Meyer deems it convenient to consult on financial matters, who are really tyros, some of them charlatans compared with Raja Reshee Cas Law but they trade on a self-advertisement which he disdains In business and public life, he is shrewd, urbane, straight and tenacious Of his tenacity we had a fine illustration in his stand last spring against the destruction of the Hathkola Jute Bazar His other qualities have been admired by all with whom he has been associated for years in his numerous civic activities In private life his greatest charm is an old-world courtesy which recalls to the student of History the Darbars of Wellesley and Moira His father made an ideal Sheriff His appointment opened a new epoch in the history of Calcutta There can be no possible doubt but that the son's performance will shed a new lustre on a Bengali house revered and loved by every European that knows it *Ashirbad kori apanar mangal howk* (We pray that you may enjoy prosperity) On this election to the Reformed Legislative Council of Bengal by National Chamber of Commerce, *Capital* wrote as follows.– If an elected minister could be entrusted with the portfolio

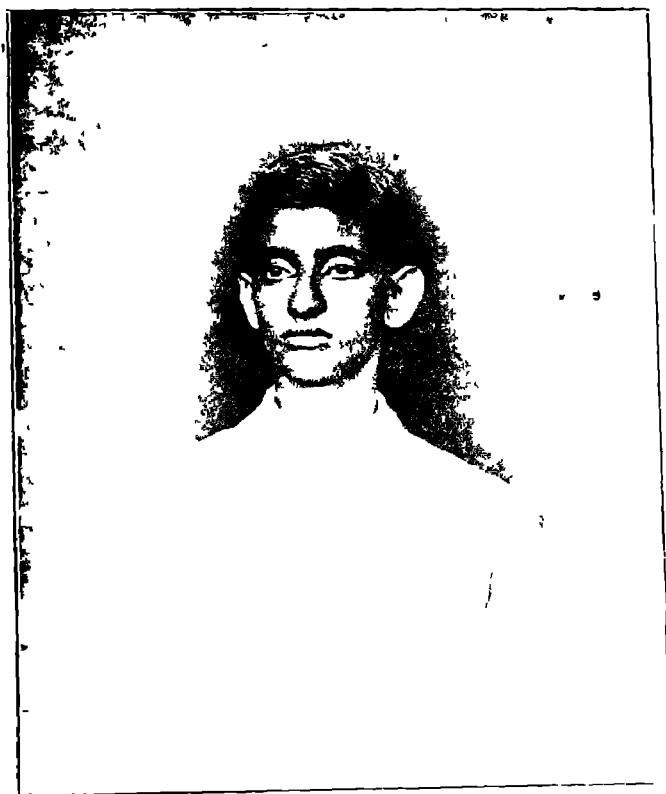
of finance, Raja Reshee Case Law would be the man for our money. He knows more about the internal trade of the Presidency than a dozen average men in Clive Street, also more about the way to finance it economically and profitably" We may conclude this sketch with the remark that the Raja has no hobby and knows no recreation His various public duties occupy all his waking hours leaving him no time or inclination to rest and relaxation.

HISTORY OF THE MAITRA ZEMINDAR FAMILY OF TULANDA.

EARLY HISTORY

IN the 8th Century A D Shusen Ojhha, son of a Brahmin, Daksha by name of Kashyapa gotra came from Canauj, his native country, to the Court of Raja Adisura. The Rajah settled him in the Barendra Desha He is the first ancestor of the Barendra Brahmins of Kashyapa gotra. In the family of Shusena Ojhha was born Matu Maitra From Kula Shastra we know that he was given Kula maryyada by Ballal sen, the King of Bengal A son was born in his family named Priti Krishna, who lived at Hapania in the district of Rajshahi His son Braja Kishore married at Tulanda and pitched his tabernacle permanently there

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDER OF THE ESTATE.

The Great-great-grandson of Braja Kishore was famous Ananda Mohan Maitra He is the founder of the Estate By the dint of his intelligence he earned an Estate valued about Eighty thousand After his name the Estate is called Ananda Mohan Estate He was Parama Bhagabata He installed his family diety, Radha Madhaba Jeu at Brindaban The temple of the Deity at Brindaban is known as Maitra Kunja or Radhabag Yearly six thousand rupees are spent there for pujah Ananda Mohan Maitra purchased at Agra some zemindary. At his native place Tulanda, there is another Deity named Madan Mohan Below the Lotus Feet of the Deity is inscribed Rup Narayan Sharma It seems from the inscription that Rup Narayan Sharma was no other than Rupa Goswami, the famous disciple of Sri Sri Gouranga Mahapravu of Navadwipa He opened

BABU GOPIKULA MOHAN MAITRA

BABU BRAJENDRA MOHAN MAITRA, M A

MAHANTA MAHARAJ LALIT MOHAN MAITRA

different centres in his vast zemindary for atithis. Whoever came to any of the centres was given board and shelter irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

THE LIFE SKETCH OF MAHANT MAHARAJ.

Ananda Mohan was sonless, so he adopted Mahunt Maharaj Lalit Mohan Maitra. During his life-time he increased his Estate to the value of about two lacs From the early age, Mahunt Maharaj was devoted to his religion and engaged the major portion of day in pujah receiving Sadhus By seeing his religious devotions, the Vaishnava savants of Navadwipa bestowed on him the title, the Mahunt Maharaj of Vaishnavas. The door of his house was opened day and night for the poor. From him the rich and poor received the equal attention

For the comforts of his subjects, he established a charitable dispensary named Brajendra Mohan charitable Dispensary and subsidized several Local Board dispensaries in the districts of Maldah and Rajshahi For the education of his subjects he founded schools. He was devotedly loved by his tenants.

On the 6th January, 1924, he went to Galaka Dham while he was singing the name of the Almighty, leaving behind him two sons named Babu Brajendra Mohan Maitra M.A., and Babu Gopi Kula Mohan Maitra to succeed to his Estate, and five daughters four son-in-laws, grand daughters and grandsons to mourn his loss

BEJOY KISHORE MONDAL.

BEJOY Kishore Mondal, is, perhaps, one of the youngest of the Bengal Zemindars called upon to manage a vast and ancient Estate Only in January last Bejoy Kishore succeeded his father Babu Upendra Krishna Mondal to the Zemindari of the 24 Pargannas

The Mondal family is one of the most illustrious in the province, and it will be sufficient to say that the present zemindar is descended on the maternal side from the famous Rani Rasmoni of Janbazar, Calcutta. The family is Mahishya by caste and Vaishnava by religion The family is known for the lavish charity bestowed on the poor on the occasions of the festivals sacred to the Vaishnavites

Bejoy Kishore is just turned thirty, having been born on the 29th January 1894. When he had completed his matriculation course, he was called upon by his father to look after the affairs of the Zemindari Though it was an interruption to his studies, the early training in the management of the Estate which he received at the hands of his father must stand him in good stead now when he has to bear the whole responsibility of management at so young an age He follows loyally the instructions of his father, especially in respect of excavation of tanks and inauguration of bazaars of the people

Besides the management of his Estate the young zemindar is interesting himself in public affairs. He is a member of the Local and District Boards of 24 Pargannas, and in that capacity he has largely helped in the construction and repairing of tanks and canals, And as a member of the committee of the Bawali High School, he has been able to effect several improvements.

BEJOY KISHORE MONDAL

His tastes are many and varied. Agriculture and horticulture are his favorite hobbies He has also fitted up a zco in his garden and has stocked in it a variety of animals and birds

He is a keen sportsman, football, cricket, lawn tennis, and shikar claiming his attention equally

It is a distinguishing trait of the young zemindar that he is anxious to equip himself intellectually so as to be better fitted not only to manage his Estate but also to take his natural place in the public life of his country He possesses a big library at Rawali and has a large collection of ancient literature

He has married Promila Bala Dasi, daughter of Babu Naba Kishore Chowdhury, Zemindar, Janbazar, Calcutta and has a daughter and a son

Young energetic, hard-working, Babu Bejoy Kishore Mondal has a long career before him, and may it prove happy and prosperous is the wish of those who are interested in the well being of the landed Aristocracy of Bengal.

KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDHURI KAZEMUDDIN AHMED SIDDIKY.

CHAUDHURI KAZEMUDDIN AHMED SIDDIKY who has been made a Khan Bahadur on the occasion of the King's Birthday is a prominent Mahamadan Zemindar of East Bengal Born in January 1876, he is in his forty-seventh year and has already earned a place for him self among the Notabilities of his province It is interesting to trace the antiquity of his family, and we are indebted to the publication 'A National Biography for India' for the following facts —

He is thirty-fifth in descent from Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique Quarsishi Razi Allah Anho, father-in-law of the Prophet, whose decendants are known as Siddiquis Abu Bakar's son Hazrat Abdur Rahman Siddiqui Razi Allah Anho, took a conspicuous part in the Arabian conquest of Syria and it is said that the family lived in Arabia up to the life-time of his son Hazrat Abdulla Siddiqui Razi Allah Anho From his son Quasem till the fifteenth decendant Shahabuddin, the family lived at Turkey and the next two descendants Nezamuddin and Zahiruddin lived somewhere in India and from eighteenth descendant Kutubuddin, who was a high official (Mansab-i-Panch-Hazari-Maahimaratib) in the Imperial Court at Delhi, the family settled in Bengal His son Sa'aduddin was directed by Is'am Khan (Subedar) of Jehangirnagar) to accompany Shujat Khan (Chief Military Officer of Bengal) to subdue the fromidable Afghan Osman Khan Sa'aduddin did excellent work and received from Emperor Jehangir a Jagir of three Perganas named Chandprotap, Aminabad and Talebabad in the Hijri year 1021 (1612 A D) and built his residence in the village of

KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDHURI KAZEMUDDIN AHMED SIDDIKY

Polkhar (Pargana Talebabad.) This was the family residence till the thirtieth descendant Abdul Wahed Siddiqui, but the next descendant Najmuddin Hossain left Polkhar and built his residence at Bahadi. Since then the family residence was removed to Bahadai, which is under the jurisdiction of the Sadar Sub-Division of the Dacca district. From the history of Bengal it appears that in the Budhistic period when the Pal Kings were reigning in Bengal, these Perganas were ruled by King Jeswant Pal, but aferwards during the time of the twelve Bhumians of Bengal, who were territorial magnates and wielded large political powers in Mahomedan times, these Perganas were held by Fazl Ghazi and Chand Ghazi, but afterwards were granted Jagir to the nineteenth descendant Then the two Perganas Chandprotap and Aminabad passed away from their hands partly by gift and partly by transfer, but the third was wholly in their hands However, at the beginning of British rule in India, this Pergana was divided among the several descendants of the family which was recognised and sanctioned by the Imperial Court at Delhi at the time of the Emperor Shah Alam and the Sanad of this Jagir was countersigned by Warren Hastings, the first Governor - General of India In the Hijri Year 1107 (1204 B S.) Emperor Mahammad Shah of Delhi granted a Sanad of Jagir of Pergana Telebabad to the thirtieth descendant Abdul Wahed Siddiqui He received the title of Chaudhuri from Emperor Shah Alam, which is since then being used in the family It will thus be seen that the Bahadi family is perhaps the most ancient and notable aristocratic family in East Bengal with which were closely associated some of the important events of history of Bengal

He is an ideal land-lord. His estate lies in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh and the area thereof is about 96 square miles. He became the owner of the estate in 1898 (11th Falgoon 1304 B S) by a deed of Heba-Bel-Awaz. His tenants look upon him as their dearly father, and in fact

he looks after them with greatest possible solicitude even at the sacrifice of his comforts and leisure. On the 12th December, 1911, when celebrating with great pomp the Coronation Durbar Day at Baliadi about 35 000 people of his Pergana, including Hindus and Mahomedans were given sumptuous food, and a quarter seer of rice and one anna cash were distributed to thousands of beggars At the Dacca residence also an evening party was held on that date. Although the elite of the town were invited on the occasion, he distributed liberally to the poor of the neighbourhood blankets, *chuddars* and sweets In 1909, he generously made a free gift of land for the construction of the road from Kadda to Kaliakur in the district of Dacca, which was acknowledged by the District Board There are several insta nces of his evincing loyalty to the British Crown which is traditional to his family since the beginning, and all the successive Divisional Commissioners and District Officers held a very favourable opinion of him Mr Natham and Mr LeMesurier the two successive Commissioners of Dacca Division, once remarked in some correspondence :—" Perhaps the most ancient and notable Mahomedan family of East Bengal" Mr J T Rankin, I C S, said as District Magistrate in 1909 —" He is one of the biggest Mahomedan Zemindars in Dacca District and comes of an old and respectable family" So Mr Hart, the Magistrate of Dacca, said in 1917 —" He is the head of one of the most aristocratic families of this district and is distinguished for his loyalty" The *Eastern Bengal and Assam Era* (Dacca) writes in its issue of 10th June 1911, that "The Baliadi Zemindars are noted as much for their loyalty as for their hospitality"

In June, 1908, on the establishment of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Provincial Branch of the All-India Moslem League at Dacca, he was made its President and the late Nawab Sir Khwaja Salimulla Bahadur, G C I E, K C S I, the Secretary of the League. He was all along President

of this Association and did many useful services in this capacity The first address of welcome that was presented by this Branch League was to the then Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Sir Charles Stuart Bayley, K C S I, on the 9th July 1908 at Dacca, which was read by him, from which some passages are noted below —" We represent an Association which has established its branches in the Punjab and Behar and also in England, and will extend its scope to all parts of India Its main object is to place before the public a correct representation of the reasons and objects of Government in regard to different measure, both legislative and executive, to prevent misunderstanding arising out of misapprehension and misrepresentation of such subjects and reasons and to draw the attention of Government to the requirements and difficulties of the people. We hope thus to foster good feeling between the governors and the governed This provincial branch has been started only a month and in its infancy has not been able to do any appreciable work, but with time spread of its branches in the interior and with the help of your Honour's government, we expect to render good service to our community as also to government and the public "

Since the outbreak of the great European war in August 1914, he has rendered some useful services, particularly in preventing dessemination of false rumours and explaining the real situation of the war to the Mussalman public. He presided over a mass meeting of the inhabitants of Baliadi and its neighbouring villages that was held on the 19th November, 1914 He in the course of his presidential speech referring to the Mahomedan States explained clearly with his habitual spirited language how Turkey acted undeliberatedly by declaring war against the British. He then made the assembly understand that the Indian Mussalmans must

and ought to remain loyal to the British Raj as it is against the Mahomedan religion to go against the ruling king Mr L. Birley, C I. E, I C S, the then District Magistrate of Dacca, wrote to him in a letter dated the 18th February, 1915, as follows —"I am directed to convey to you the thanks of Government for your efforts in explaining to your co-religionists the present international situation. Your assistance has been much appreciated both by myself personally and by Government" In September, 1914, he paid Rs 500 towards the Imperial War Relief Fund through the Dacca Branch Owing to the heavy prices of almost all the necessaries of life, due to war, he has in 1918, remitted the payment of one year's rent in the case of the tenants of his Wakf Estate and has announced all over his Telebabad Pergana, that the tenants who at their own accord will enlist themselves soldiers in the Bengali Regiment will be remitted the payment of their usual rent as long as they will remain in active service and they will receive a remuneration at the rate of Rs 10 each

On the right side of fifty the Khan Bahadur has many years of a useful life yet before him There can be no doubt there will be years of wholesome activity bringing him more and higher honors form the Government and the larger esteem of his friends.

BABU GOPAUL CHUNDRA SINGHA

GOPAL CHANDRA SINGHA.

GOPAL CHANDRA SINGHA, son of late Madhob Chandra Singha, Born in October 1852 A D at Bhowanipore His father who was of slender means left his native village at Bara Jagulia, in the District of Nadia in Bengal with Rs 25 only in his pocket to try his fortune in Calcutta. He at first took to small contract businesses Both the father and son by their strict honesty and great diligence gained the confidence of their European masters and commenced to get very vaulable Government and Municipal Contracts They soon made their fortune by acquiring landed property and cash to the worth of several lacs The father was a very pious man and in his life he strictly adhered to the faith of a Hindu. The father's truthfulness and piety was fully reflected on the young boy who was always his father's constant companion and learnt the lessons from what his father did and showed in his thoughts and acts The son from his boyhood was fond of fine arts He learnt the work of drawing and plan making to his great credit which was a source of much help to his father in his road and building, contract businesses Gopaul Chandra's knowledge of drawing pictures from nature and painting them attracted the attention of many lovers of that art He could sing well and compose several Bengali Dramas of which Apurba Milan and Nabakush Bijoy were printed and staged and for sometime created great sensation His celebrated song "Basante Bipin, Ki Shova Jural Nayan Vramiteche Oli, Madhupan lovey Kokil Dhalichhe Sudha, Mohiye Kanan Bahichhe Sourava malaya anil futichhe Kusumarji, sovichhe Bhuban" is still remembered in Bengal Besides those two dramas he com-

piled other dramas Parasya Sundari and Vagya Chakra Kalpana Rahasya and Laksana Haran which were also staged and well appreciated by the public. Gopaul Chandra is a devout Hindu He has not budged an inch from the path chalked out by the *Rishis* to be trodden upon by a *Grihi* He is a regular worshipper of deities Lakhsmi Janardan and Shivalingas which his father had installed at an enormous expenditure in his family dwelling house at No. 26 Paddopukur Road, Bhowanipur and at Benares respectively. At a cost of over twenty thousand rupees Gopaul Chandra installed Shivas in temples built by him at Benares with the ceremony of *Shola Auna* Brahman (invitation of all the Brahmins of Benares) and fed Dandis and Sadhus and paid tributes to Adhyapucks (teachers of Vedas and Upanishads and other philosophy of religion) He has also provided for the daily worship and upkeep of the Bigrahas Gopal is not only a religious devotee but the good of the public is constantly at his heart He has made a princely donation of one lac and twenty-five thousand rupees to the cause of the National Council of Education Bengal at a very critical time of its existence and saved it from its unnatural death. He has contributed Rs 10,000 for the establishment of an Academy in his name at his native village at Bura yagulia and the school has been started with a committee of which the Subdivisional officer at Ranaghat is the ex-officio perpetual president To redress the longfelt grievance of the public Gopal Chandra caused the *Kancha* thoroughfare of his native village to be metalled at a cost of Rs. 5000 and dedicated it to the sacred name of his father Now he has promised to contribute substantially to the construction of a masonry building to locate the Gopaul Academy at Bara Jagulia Gopal Chandra has applied to the Chairman of the Board of his District for permission to establish a charitable dispensary at his native village and has promised

the intial costs for starting it and all the expenses for the construction of a building for the dispensary and the doctor's quarters. Though disabled by age and an attack of rheumatism he is virtually confined to his bed yet the activities of his brain and his noble disposition for doing charity and good to others are in full play. He is in contemplation of creating a public chartitable trust after making good provisions for his heirs and descendants. He has got three sons and one grandson He is at present living at No. 26A Paddopukur Road, Bhowanipur in the town of Calcutta.

THE HISTORY OF THE ZEMINDAR FAMILY OF BHAGIRATHPUR

THE forefathers Nripendra Krishna Chowdhury and Phanindra Krishna Chowdhury were the well known Zamindars of the province whose pious names still linger in the memory of the people of the district throughout. They had a monopoly of salt-trade which sufficiently enriched themselves They had their extensive business in Murshidabad, Chitpore (Calcutta), Rajshahye, and Patna. They flourished during the time of Nizamat rules in Bengal with its capital at Murshidabad, when they acquired a vast Zemindary under the efficient management of the late Babu Bolodev Chowdhury, the foremost man of the family extending over the districts of 24 parganas, Rajshahye, Birbhum and Murshidabad They then secured a great influence in the society as well as in the court of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Behar and Orissa and their family still commands a great influence in this historically important district of Murshidabad

They were formerly inhabitants of Dumraon in Behar and Vaisya Vanik by caste, but subsequently settled in flourishing village, Bhagirathpore in the important district of Murshidabad in connexion with their salt trade. They gained the Sandwan (charter) from Aliverdi Khan, Nawab of Bengal, Behar and Orissa for purchasing salt at Nadandanga in the French Settlement near Chandarnagar After the foundation of the capital of Bengal, Behar and Orissa at Murshidabad its trade increased and flourished during the Nizamat rules under Sujauddin Khan, and Sherfiraj Khan (1739 to 1741) to such a degree that their predecessor thought it profitable to establish Trading centres in various parts

BABU NRIPENDRA KRISHNA CHAUDHURI

of the district with their head-quarter at Bhagirathpur Since then they are living here for eight generations It should also be mentioned here that they are the real Vaisya Vanik by caste who emigrated from Behar to Bengal and their origin can be traced from their manners and customs still obtaining among them

During the British rule they also proved to be most faithful and loyal (Zamindars) and they are all along in the good works of the Government and after the Sepoy mutiny in recognition of their services the benign Government exempted the late Zamindars Babus Sri Krishna Chowdhury and Shib Krishna Chowdhury, and their descendants the late Babus Kali Krishna Chowdhury and Kumar Krishna Chowdhury from the operation of the Arms Act

They are still the recognised land holders of the province and entitled to send representation in the viceregal council and the provincial council as well The Provincial Government has been so pleased that it has conferred upon Mr. Phanindra K Chowdhury the Honorary magistracy of Berhampore Sadar Bench (Murshidabad district) who has fully dignified the post Babu Sib Krishna Chowdhury, one of the descendants of this family was a fortunate and enterprising man He extended his Zemindary during his life-time. His heart was generous and everybody who approached him for pecuniary help or anything like that did never go back disappointed He was open-handed to paupers and for the benefit of his subjects he dug wells and tanks in the Mahals He died at the age of 50 (Fifty) to the great sorrow of the locality

Babu Kumar Krishna Chowdhury, the eldest son to Babu Sib Krishna Chowdhury, was a man of pure moral character and good heart He never touched liquor or even tobacco in his life He was a great Vaisnab and a patroniser of his own caste He maintained a high school in the

village for twenty-six years with handsome donation—which still testifies his memory to the heart of the locality. He like his father dug wells and tanks in the Mahals for the benefit of his subjects. He died at the age of 55 (Fifty-five)

Babu Nripendra Krishna Chowdhury son of Babu Kumar Krishna Chowdhury was born in 1896 A D The light of education never touched a single soul of the family But Nripendra Krishna Chowdhury was the pioneer of educational line in this family. He passed the Matriculation Examination in 1916 and the Intermediate Examination in 1919 and prosecuted his studies up to B A On finishing his educational career, he has directed his life to the Zemindary business and entirely devoted himself to the welfare of his subjects by digging wells and tanks in the Mahals He bears a very good moral character. He is kind-hearted and popular The noblest traits of his character are proved by the facts—(i) he defrays the expenses of the poor students of his own village for their education and (ii) he helps his friends in their wants Now he is a young man of 27 (twenty-seven) and devotes his leisure period by studying books in his own library He is at present blessed with a child aged 5 and a daughter aged 3

BABU PHANINDRA KRISHNA CHAUDHURI

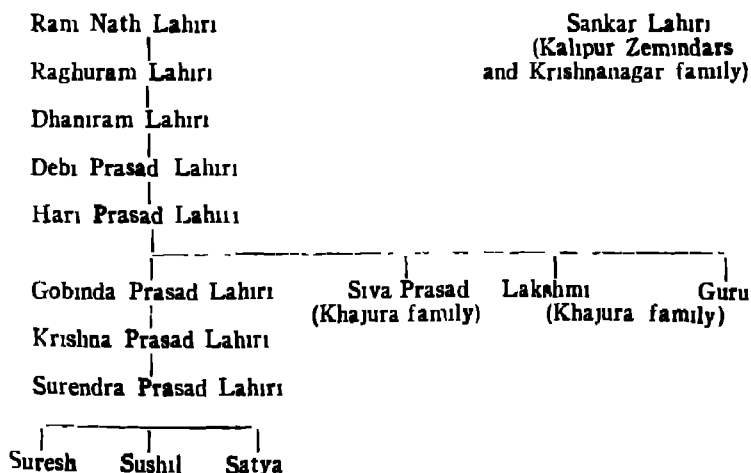
FAMILY HISTORY

OF

KRISHNAPUR ZEMINDARS.

Mymensingh.

KRISHNAPUR is a pretty little village situated on the bank of the river Bramaputra nearly 12 miles off from Mymensingh The landlords of this place are the Lahiri Chowdhuris, Kulins of the highest grade in the Varendra Brahmin society.

The Geneological table of this family runs thus —

Hara Kishore Roy Chowdhury, one of the most eminent landlords of Gouripur, had a daughter named Krishnamani who was a great favourite with her parents. Her father had died when she was an infant. Krishnamani was married to one Gobinda Prasad Lahiri of Khajura in the district of

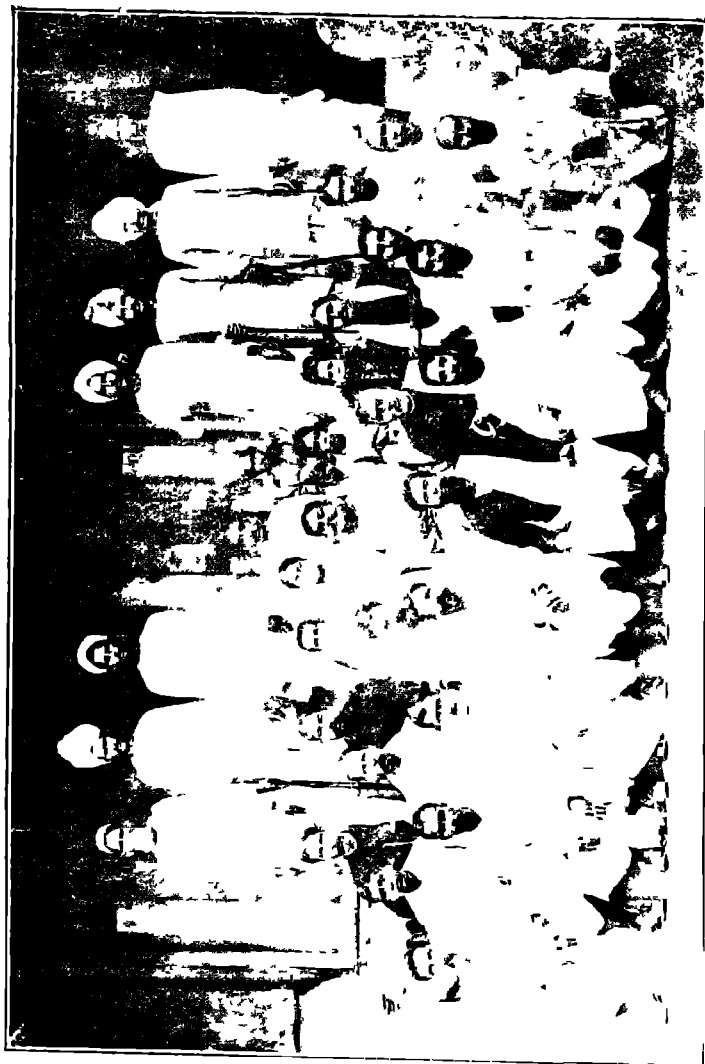
Rajshahi Bhagirathi Deby performed the marriage ceremony of her only daughter with much pomp and grandeur. But alas! the bride groom died within a very short time leaving Krishnamani a widow of tender age to mourn his loss

Bhagirathi Devy, on the death of her husband Hara Kishore, inherited his estates and adopted one Ananda Kishore in the absence of any male issue. Meanwhile family dissensions intervening, Bhagirathi Deby and Ananda Kishore prudently brought Krishnamani from Khajura to Gouripur and built for her a residence decked with well laid-out gardens, vast tanks and all other conveniences of life The place of her abode was named after her Krishnapur, very close to Gouripur. Krishnamani being childless adopted Krishna Prasad, son of one Naba Kumar Sanyal of Mulchar in the Pargana of Vikrampur (Dacca)

Krishnamani spared no pains or money to give her son a good and liberal education by placing him under the charge of a most efficient scholar of that time The boy acquired a good knowledge of Persian and Bengali Krishna Prasad was an excellent conversationalist, a good musician and an expert Shikari He was a man of liberal culture, great refinement of manners and exceedingly amiable behaviour,—rare qualification for the aristocratic people of that period. He purchased some Zemindari in various districts and specially one in Dacca Krishna Prasad married Swarnamayee, daughter of the late Gouri Nath Chowdhury of Kewar, Vikrampur He had three daughters namely Shindubala, Giribala and Brajagopi. Shindubala died in his life time Unfortunately the brilliant and promising career of Krishna Prasad was cut short at the comparatively early age of 49.

His death was a great blow to Krishnamani who immediately retired to the sacred city of Benares, where she

Mother SWARNAMAYEE DEBI CHOUDHARANI.

BABU SURENDRA PRASAD LAHIRI CHAUDHURI

OFFICERS

passed the remainder of her life in religious austerities in pilgrimages and in acts of piety. The Zemindar-family of Krishnapur owe their position, rank and prosperity to her efforts and exertions. She died at the ripe old age of nearly a hundred years.

Swarnamayee on the death of her husband took up the management of the estate in her own hands and adopted Surendra Prasad son of late Babu Jogendra Chandra Lahiri of Balihar in the district of Rajshahi. Swarnamayee was a lady of rare abilities and untiring energy. The management of the big estate and the education of the new heir were tasks too great for the ordinary intelligence of a woman. But by her natural tact and adaptability, simple habits and strict morals, she succeeded, though a woman with all the disadvantages of her sex, in doing her duty and did it well. To crown all, she was a devout lady and observed the greatest austerities herself. So much was her religious fervour that she visited almost all the holy places of India even in the intervals of her varied activities at home Service to the poor was another aspect of her religion. Far and near, all poor men and the needy would enjoy her bounties, and her warm heart melted at the appeals of the distressed. She died in 1921 A. D in the sacred city of Benares at the age of 72. The Dansagar Sradha Ceremony which was performed on that occasion, became conspicuous by its pomp and grandeur.

Surendra Prasad was born in the year 1885, A. D. His present age is 38 years He has received a liberal, accomplished and cultured education. He has married the second daughter of Raja Jagat Kishore Acharyya Chowdhury of Muktagacha and has issue On the demise of his mother, the management of the estate, whole and entire, has devolved upon him. Economic habits, strict principles, broad and liberal views though devoutly orthodox himself, an

appreciativeness of the good and the great, sympathy for the weak and the helpless—all these qualities have combined to make his name a distinction in his locality. Books are his passion and he has an admiration for all fine culture, music, arts etc. A worthy father makes a worthy son. His son, Suresh Prasad, Sushil Prasad and Satya Prasad are all receiving liberal education. The eldest son, Suresh Prasad is a fair youth with stout health and rare athletic acumen. He has married the grand-daughter of Rai Satish Chandra Choudhury Bahadur, Zemindar of Bhawanipur, Mymensingh. The next, Sushil Prasad having matriculated creditably in the First Division is now reading in the Intermediate College of the Dacca University. He is a youngman of brilliant parts, and if morning can show the day, his future bids fair to be a glorious one Sweetness of disposition and Light which are the primary elements of culture are there in each of the boys and the youngest, Master Satya Prasad is already a good musician Surendra Prasad's only daughter, Savitribala, the latest born of all, has been placed under proper hands for education.

Sir B C Mitter, Kt

SIR BENODE CHUNDER MITTER, KT.

SIR Benode Chunder Mitter, who forms the subject of this sketch and who has just entered into the fifty-third year of his life, comes from a stock of family which may be justly called a "family of lawyers". His great grand-father, the late Babu Kali Dass Mitter, was a Munsiff in the days of the East India Company; his grand-father, the late Babu Ram Chunder Mitter, was Head Judicial Assistant in the Old Sudder Dewany Adwalat of Bengal; his father, the late Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter of revered memory, was a judge of the Calcutta High-Court and the first Indian judge who, amidst unreasoning opposition from the European community, was appointed to act as the first Indian Chief Justice during the temporary absence on leave of the late Sir Richard Girth, his two uncles, viz, the late Babu Kasey Chunder Mitter and Probode Chunder Mitter, joined the legal profession and also enjoyed considerable practice; his eldest brother, the late Babu Manmatha Nath Mitter, was a Vakil of the Calcutta High Court and so too is his youngest brother Mr. Provash Chunder Mitter, C. I. E., who lately held the portfolio of Education in the Bengal Ministry. Sir Binod, who was born in February, 1872, is the third son and fourth child of his parents. His father was then living in the paternal house in Puddupukur Road, Bhowanipur, which he quitted soon after his elevation on the bench of the Calcutta High Court in succession to the late Mr. Justice Dwaraka Nath Mitter, one of India's greatest and most brilliant judges. It is only doing bare justice to that great judge to say that many of his judgements are of classical authority and are justly regarded as permanent contributions to legal jurisprudence. But Sir Romesh worthily filled up the great void in the

legal world caused by the derth of his eminent predecessor and his judgements are read to-day with great profit by the legal professions. Mr. Justice Dwarka Nath Mitter and Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter established firmly in the seventies the claim of the Indians that as judges they are, in no way, inferior to the best English judges who had come out to India and the reputation they built up for the Indian judges—has been most worthily maintained by some of their illustrious successors In 1874, Sir Romesh Chunder removed to Ballygunge, the most fashionable suburb of the city of Calcutta in those days. The education of his children was Sir Romesh Chunder's great care and his efforts in this direction have been crowned with success Sir Binod was partly educated in the Hare School and partly in the City College. He graduated himself from the Presidency College in the year 1891 just in his nineteenth year and two years after he took his degree in Law i e, pass the B. L. examination taking a high place in the list. Young Binod was at a fix at this time. He had to decide as to which branch of the legal profession he should enter. He, at first, decided that he should enrol himself as a solicitor and thus articled himself to the late Mr. N. C. Bural, a well known solicitor at that time. As an articled clerk he had opportunity of judging the work of a barrister and that of an attorney. His discriminating power soon led him to decide his own course and the inclination of his mind was towards the profession of an advocate Having thus decided he soon severed his connection with Mr Bural. He left for England in 1895 and joined the Lincoln's Inn in June 1897. He passed all his examinations within 3 months of his arrival in England· After completing his term he was called to the Bar in 1897. While in England he was a pupil of Mr. W. H. Upjohn, who then enjoyed an extensive junior practice on the Chancery side and soon after became a

leader of the English Chancer Bar and is now one of the leaders amongst the barristers practising in the Privy Council. Sir Binod returned to India in 1898, and was enrolled that year as an Advocate of the High Court The Calottta Bar was then the stronghold of European Barristers. The European Barristers enjoyed the largest practice at that time. In the front rank were Sir Charles Paul, Sir Griffiths Hill, William Jackson and others Immediately following them were Mr Afterwards Sir William Garth, Messrs. Dunn, P O' Kenally and others Amongst Indians the most prominent figure was Mr. W. C Banerjee. Next to him came Mr R Mitter, Mr Now Lord Sinha, Mr. Boymkesh Chakrvarty and Mr. now Sir Ashutosh Choudhury To a biginner it was herculean task to obtain a footing unless he was an exceptionally clever man. Merit has generally got its reward in the legel profession. Sir Binod was able by sheer dint of his talent and industry to surmount the difficulties that confront a new beginner. Those who entrusted him with briefs never regretted their choice. The senior barristers with whom he was engaged bore high testimony to his ability Thus backed by attorneys, liked by seniors and appreciated by clients themselves Sir Binod very soon established his reputation at the Bar. In the absence of his seniors he conducted his cases to the satisfaction of the presiding judges Hardly he was five years at the Bar when he became overwhelmed with junior briefs. While he was a practitioner of 9 or 10 years standing he took his place amongst the barristers in the front rank. Our limited space would not allow us to cite here numerous cases in which Sir Binod displayed not only wonderfull tact and ability but gave abundant proof of his vast legal resources which excited the admiration of all.

A new chapter now opened in the career of Sir Binod. The office of Standing Counsel fell vacant owing to the

appointment of Mr. now Sir Ali Imam as law member and he was appointed to succeed him in the vacant office. Sir Binod was at first reluctant to accept the office, as it entailed great pecuniary sacrifice but Sir Edward Baker, the then Lieutnant Governor of Bengal, pointed out to him that Indians should follow the examples of the barristers in England in making big pecuniary sacrifices in order to serve their country and Sir Binod accepted the office which he filled for seven years to the entire satisfaction of the Government and the public While holding this appointment he was called upon twice to officiate as Advocate General during the temporary absence on leave of the permanent incumbent. In 1917 Sir S. P Sinha resigned the office of the Advocate General of Bengal and contrary to public expectation and most unjustly the appointment was given to an English practising barrister at home This appointment took everybody by surprise especially the members of the Calcutta Bar. In our administration the supersession of Indian claims in favour of less competent English men is frequent and Sir Binod atonce resigned the office of the Standing Counsel In recognition of his distinguished services as a law officer of the Crown, His Majesty the King, on the recommendation of the Government of India, conferred on him "Knighthood" which he worthily deserved Thus relieved of Government work Sir Binod devoted himself solely to private practice and for many years he has been looked upon as the defacto leader of the Calcutta Bar It will be too numerous to mention the big cases in which he was engaged. Infact there were very few in which his services when available were not requisitioned The latest big case in which he had been engaged was the Patiala Nabha Case which lasted for several months. His valuable opinion is sought from distant parts in India on difficult questions of International law and also other branches of jurisprudence. He was

invited by the Government of Mysore for his advice in connection with a certain dispute between the said government and the Government of Madras. His position at the Bar is unique. On many occasions enquiries were made by the authorities if he would accept a judgeship but, for reasons of health and other causes, he was unable to change his career.

Passing from his legal career we come to his public life. He has every inclination to render service in the field of politics, but his professional avocation stands in the way. He abhors to play the role of a *psuedo* patriot or a half-hearted worker He was a member of the Bengal Legislative Council from 1910 to 1917 and during his membership in this Legislative body his advice was often sought on all legal matters arising in the discussion of any Bill or measures He was returned as an elected member to the Council of State in 1921, and when the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill came up for consideration he took a very active part in the Select Committee and he ungrudgingly gave his valuable time and services to his colleagues in the Committee, and, infact, had a very large hand in liberalising the old Criminal Procedure Code. He severed his connection with the Council of State, before the expiration of his term of office, on account of his ill health and owing to the fact that he felt he was not able to devote sufficient time to his work there. In politics and also in affairs of his life he has been a moderate in his views and a lover of truth and fair play. He speaks convincingly and never indulges in platitudes. He believes in honest hard work as he has himself been a strenuous worker all his life. He has every sympathy for organised constructive work. He was Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Annual Conference of the liberals that was held in Calcutta in the year 1919 and his utterances were worthy of the occasions. He was a

Vice President of the Indian National Liberal League and took an active part in its deliberations. He is also a Vice President of the Indian Association.

. Sir Binod was married in the year 1890 to a daughter of the late Dr. Akshoy K. De of the Bengal Medical Service, and has several children. His eldest son, Mr, Sudhir Chunder Mitter, being graduated both here and abroad, enrolled himself as an Advocate of the High Court, and his second and third son after graduating themselves in the University of Calcutta are now studying Engineering in England and his two other sons are studying here.

As a man Sir Binod is extremely pleasant and good tempered. In his manifold charities and largeness of heart, his intellectual attainments and breadth of outlook he has emulated the example of his illustrious father, the great Sir Romesh.

RAJA BHOJ SINGH DUDHORIA,
Azimganj.

RAJA BIJOYSING DUDHORIA OF AZIMGANJ.

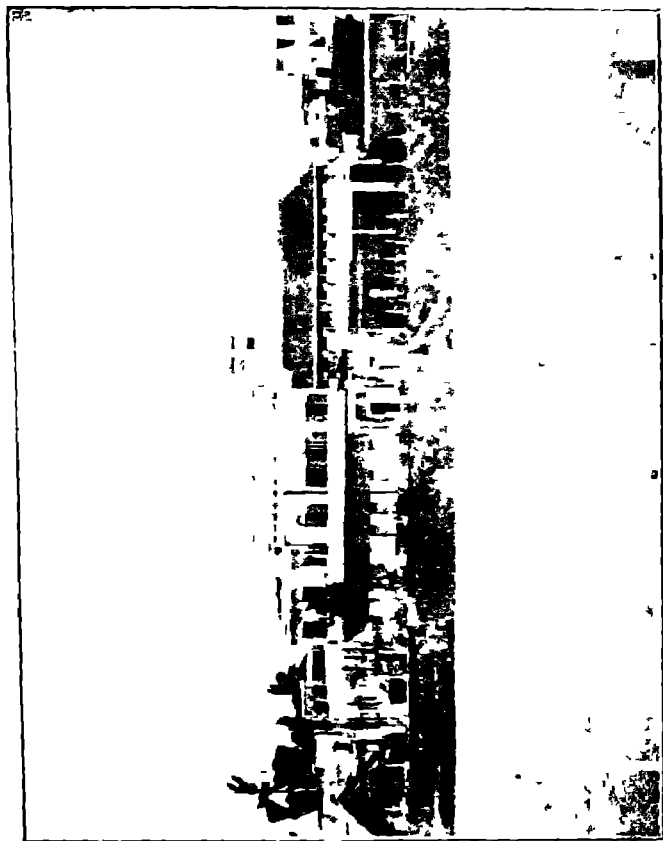
RAJA Bijoysing Dudhoria was born in 1879 at Azimganj in the district of Murshidabad. His father, Rai Bissenchand Dudhoria Bahadur was a rich zemindar and banker of the district, who greatlly added to the ancestral property by the purchase of many valuable zemindary Estates in several districts of Bengal and augmented his wealth by rare and exceptional business talents. Bijoysing was his only son and heir, and he spared no pains to give him a thoroughly sound and practical education under the private tution of Babu Abinash Chandra Dass M A.B.L a distinguished scholar and reputed author Rai Bissenchand Bahadur died in 1894 in the very prime of his life, after a short illness and Bijoysing then a lad of 14 years, succeeded to the vast Esates left by his father, which passed into the management of his uncle who was appointed guardian of the person and property of the minor by the District Judge of Murshidabad. The said guardian continued to manage the Estates of his nephew till the latter attained his majority In 1900 Bijoysing took the management of his Estates in his own hands, and began to take an interest in public affairs. In 1902, he was appointed a Commissioner of the Azimganj Municipality by the Government and at the general election of the Commissioners held in 1906 was elected Chairman of the Municipality. For a young man of twenty seven to be placed at the head of the Municipal administration of two important towns, such as Azimganj and Baluchar, showed the confidence of the rate-payers and their elected representatives in his ability and desire to promote the public welfare, Subsequent events have proved that their confidence was not misplaced for the authorities have been thoroughly

satisfied with his administration on their record appreciation of his excellent adminstrative powers. In 1907, Bijoysing was appointed as Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Lalbagh, sitting singly in which capacity he satisfactorily discharged his duties He was appointed a member of the general Committee of Lady Minto's Fete in which he took great interest.

On 26th June 1908, the title of Raja was conferred upon Bijoy Sing by the Government for his public services, the good tradition of his family, his liberality, high character and rank. He is the only Raja among the Jains in India and as such holds a unique position in his community. His public and private charities are too numerous to mention and he deservedly holds in high esteem by the public

The Sanad and Khilat of Raja were delivered to him at the public Durbar held at Belvedere on the 14th November 1908, by Sir Andrew Fraser, the then Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. In delivering them to the Raja, Sir Andrew Fraser addressed him the following words

"Raja Bijoysing Dudhoria, I congratulate you very heartily on the high honour, which has been bestowed upon you. You have started life under very favourable circumstances You have a high position and good traditions. Your father has done distinguished public services and we believe that you are following in his steps You have been very liberal in encouraging works of beneficence and I trust that you will be long spared to help forward good work in this province"

At the general election of the Municipal Commissioners held in 1909, Raja Bijoysing Dudhoria was re-elected a Chairman of the Azimganj Municipality. He has constructed a fine building for the Jiaganj Edward Coronation Institution at the cost of Rs. 24000 which the Hon'ble Sir Edward Norman Baker, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal opened on

RIVER VIEW OF THE PALACE OF RAJA BIJOY SINGH DUDHORIA,

Azimganj

the 18th August 1909. The Lieutenant Governor honoured the Raja with a personal visit to him at his palatial residence which has a very fine position on the river bank. At the Durbar held at Berhampore on the 20th August 1909 where the Lieutenant Governor received addresses from several Municipalities and public bodies. His Honour spoke about the Raja and some other Noblemen of the district for their public spirit.

Raja's whole-hearted devotion to the public good and his efficient administration of the affairs of the Municipality for the last twelve years so eminently established his claim to the confidence of the public that he without any contest was re-elected Chairman of the Azimganj Municipality for the fifth time in succession in 1918 an honour which is seldom bestowed upon the lot even of the most public spirited leaders of the country. Natural as it is with him, he just on reassuming the reins of the Municipal Administration devoted his full attention to the Sanitary improvement of the town to which he so efficiently succeeded that the high Government officials could not but place on record their high appreciation for it.

Besides sitting as Honorary Magistrate on Lalbagh Independent Bench and serving as Chairman of the Azimganj Municipality for a number of years, he was also a member of the Murshidabad District Board, a member of the Executive Committee of the Imperial League, of the Executive Committee in connection with King Edward Memorial Fund and the Royal Reception Fund of Calcutta. He identified himself with almost all loyal movements for public good and takes keen interest in everything that promotes public good.

Since the attainment of his majority in 1900 the Raja has been following in the footsteps of his illustrious father and uncle. There is not a single movement in the country aiming at public good to which he does not contribute his

quota. During the last twenty years the total amount of his donation and contribution has been nearly three lacs of Rupees. Keen on relieving the sufferings of the distressed and the diseased he contributed a princely sum of Rs. 100000 (one lac) to Lady Minto's Fete, in aid of the nursing association which was greatly appreciated and helped to make the Fete a success. The donation of about Rs. 24000 for the construction of the Jiaganj Edward Coronation Institution has already been mentioned. He also contributed Rs. 4000 to the fund of the Krishnagar College which badly needed replenishment. He also contributed Rs. 10000 to the Imperial war relief fund at a meeting held at the beginning of the last great European War at the Berhampore (Bengal) Grant Hall and presided over by Mr W S Milnie, the popular Collector of the District. When there was a scarcity of food-grains in 1906–07 and the poor people were feeling the pinch in consequence of course rice selling at 6 and 7 seers per Rupee, he in conjunction with his illustrious uncle Rai Budhsing Bahadur imported vast quantity of rice and caused it to be sold to the poor at 10 seers per Rupee for as many months as the scarcity lasted. This was a novel method of rendering help to the poor, which was greatly appreciated by them. In this way the two noblemen expended several thousand Rupees in public charity on the occasion

Raja's magnanimity for relieving the sufferings of the poor and the distressed has been but house-hold talk not only in the district in which he resides but in all places of his zemindary which extends over eleven districts and in other places too where such relief has once been needed. His exemplary relief work in the District of Mymensingh in 1919 has been but a paramount mark of his glory in the annals of the charitable works of Bengal. As soon as the scarcity of the food-grains was felt in the district the Raja at once extended his bountiful helping hands towards the relief work

and thus he most enthusiastically kept up till the Cyclone came, which has been announced by the Government in the Calcutta Gazette dated the 17th March 1920. People having become destitute of shelter and food by the tremendous Cyclone disaster were being systematically driven to the brinks of utter ruin and starvation but God save the Raja, Raja's prompt, voluntry, unceasing and magnanimous help which reached in time saved them from the terrible effects of the calamity. Wagons after wagons of rice were indented from Calcutta and other parts of Bengal and his liberal purse remained always opened to render all other sorts of help to remove the sufferings of the distressed. This golden act of the Raja has been highly appreciated by the Government and in recognition of which His Excellency the Governor of Bengal, in council has been pleased to grant him a certificate of Honour and to announce his valuable services in the Calcutta Gazette dated the 17th March 1920 in the following terms;

" Raja Bijoysing Dudhoria six weeks before the Cyclone commenced to import and to sell cheap rice wholesale and retail, practically at cost price. His large stocks were of the greatest use in supplying cheap rice shops when Cyclone came. The Raja and his Manager co-operated enthusiastically with Government officers throughout Relief Work."

In recognition of this relief work the District Cyclone Relief Committee passed the following resolution at a meeting held on 14—3—20.

" On the proposal of Rai Bahadur N N. Rai, Additional District Magistrate seconded by Babu M S. Dass, Hony. Treasurer, and supported by Babu H R Sen, Joint Hony. Secretary, it was resolved that a vote of thanks be accorded to Raja Bijoysing Dudhoria for the great assistance given by him on the sale and distribution of cheap rice". His charitable disposition makes no distinction of castes and

creeds and renders help wherever it is really needed. In fact good will towards all living creatures, kindness and human fraternity, the three principal tenets of his religion are well illustrated in the Raja's life.

He is a skillful horseman, and is an indefatigable worker In a word he is an ideal nobleman of Bengal, and it is in the fitness of things that the Government of Bengal invited him to the Imperial Coronation Durbar at Delhi, as one of the representative noblemen of the province.

The Raja is of 42 years of old and possesses a fine physique and robust constitution. He has already made his mark in the world and it is hoped will have a long, brighter and more useful career in his life His first wife Rani Panna Kumari is a noble lady and is the youngest daughter of Late Rai Dhanpatsing Bahadur, the wellknown Millionare of Bengal. The Raja having no surviving male issue by her and she having fallen a victim to several disorders of health and mind and in obedience to the last request of his revered uncle had to marry in 1921 a second wife Rani Mohini Sundari the eldest daughter of Seth Saheb Laksmichandji Chajore of Jharapatah, a direct descendant of Seth Hareckchandji the former Dewan of the Jhalwar State of Rajputana. Rani Mohini Sundari is the real helpmate and soulmate of her illustrious husband. May they live long and prosper by the grace of the Almighty.

BABU PURAN CHAND NAHAR, M A B L

BABU PURAN CHAND NAHAR, M.A., B.L.,

THE Nahars of Azimganj in the District of Murshidabad belong to the Oswal Sect of the Swetambar Jains whose ancestors, before they embraced Jainism, are said to have been Kshatriyas of the Rajput clan, having its founder in Pramar. Counting from him, the late Rai Setabchand Nahar Bahadur stands eighty-first in descent. In course of time this family divided itself into various branches. Ashdharji, the thirty-fifth in descent, was the first to bear the title of "Nahar" from the time of his conversion to Jainism.

Babu Puranchand Nahar is the second son of Rai Setabchand Nahar Bahadur. The Rai Bahadur was great grandson of Babu Kharag Singh in whom the present flourishing condition of the Nahars had its origin. Babu Puranchand was born on the 15th May 1875.

His father was a great lover of learning and as a boy Babu Puranchand was, at first, given education at home, on Jain precepts and rituals along with Vernacular training as was the fashion of the day. Feeling the keen want of proper educational facilities in the locality, his father established a free High School where Babu Puran Chand began his regular studies, from 1888 and passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University in 1891. In 1893 he successfully passed the First Examination in Arts from Berhampore College of the District and then joined the Presidency College, Calcutta, where he took the B.A. degree in 1895. In 1903 he joined the Bar at Berhampore after passing the B.L., Examination and subsequently he passed the M.A., Examination in 1908. Among the Jains of Bengal, who are mostly engaged in trade and business it is worthy of note that he is the first graduate and lawyer.

In 1908 he removed to Calcutta and joined the District Court of 24 Perganas With a view to follow the profession as a solicitor in the Original side of the High Court he became an articled Clerk. Finally however, choosing the Appellate Side he passed the Chamber Examination and was enrolled as a vakil of the Calcutta High Court in 1914.

As regards his past and present activities in public life and educational matters, the following list will speak out for itself. His genial nature coupled with the sauvity of his manners and his varied experience have made him a very popular and important figure in his community.

Honorary Magistrate of the Lalbagh Independent Bench (vide Cal Gazette dated 24th July 1901, circular No 3697 dated 21—7—1901), Commissioner of the Azimganj Municipality (vide Notification dated 3rd December 1896 &c) Member of the Committee for, the management of the Charitable Dispensary at Azimganj (vide Notifications dated 5th February 1903 and dated 20th April 1909), Member Local Board in the District of Murshidabad (vide Notifications 5th August 1909), Member of the managing Committee and Secretary of the Edward Cornation Institution, Jeaganj in the District of Murshidabad for a number of years, Member Benares Hindu University Court, Honorary Correspondent, Archæological Department Examiner, Calcutta University, Co-optive Member, Historical Records, Commission 1923 Member "Senior" Calcutta University Institute, Member (life) Bhandarkar Institute, Poona, Member (life) Jain Swetambar Education Board, Bombay, Member (life) Rommohan Library, Calcutta Member (life) Jain Sahitya Sansodhaka Samaj, Poona, Member Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Member Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, Member Archæological & Historical Section, Calcutta Exhibition 1923, Member Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Calcutta, Member

Nagri Pracharini Sabha, Benares, Member Bihar and Orissa Research Society, Patna, Member Kamrup Anushandhan Samiti, Assam, Member The India Society, London, Member Sanskrit Mahamandal, Calcutta, Member Sanskrit Parishad, Calcutta, Member Sangit Parishad, Calcutta, Member Society of Oriental Art, Calcutta, Member Bharat Kala Parishad, Benares, etc ,

His career of right-directed charities is well-known amongst his people. His treatment towards his tenants is also praise-worthy, And it is due to his wise management that the occasion of any friction with his tenants, has been reduced to nil. In spite of his multifarious duties as the head of his family with all its burdens and hardship, he has been able to devote a considerable portion of his time to higher studies and has issued several books and pamphlets and has contributed several articles both in English and the Vernaculars (Bengali and Hindi) His "Jain Inscriptions" Part I contains 1000 Jain Inscriptions from various parts of India most of the places he has personally visited for the purpose at a great sacrifice of his time and purse.

He has four sons and five daughters and to all of them he has imparted liberal education He possesses a very fine collection of Indian Paintings, Coins and Sculptures. His excellent collection of Manuscripts and other selected works on Archæology, Antiquity, History and important journals are worthy of all credit.

BABU SURENDRA MOHAN ACHARYYA.

ZEMINDAR OF REFAITPUR.

Nandokisor Acharyya
|
Debi Charan Acharyya
|
Santosh Narayan Acharyya

Keshab Nath Acharyya — Bhubanjay Acharyya
|
Hara Gopal Acharyya
|
Surendra Mohan Acharyya

Manindra Acharyya — Birendra Acharyya — Hirendra Acharyya

BABU SURENDRA MOHAN ACHARYYA belongs to a very old noble Brahmin family of Bengal. He descended from a family which had a glorious past. His forefathers were originally 'Baghchis' and some members were so very learned that he achieved the title 'Acharyya' (The learned or religious preceptor) from the Nawabs of Bengal. Many ancient relics of the past are still kept reserved Suren Babu's Stock, which bear testimony to his family's past glory.

Most noteworthy are the 'Baisnara' Granthas in manuscript, the materials of Tantric Sadhana etc.

Forefathers of Suren Babu had obtained many grants of land from the Rajas of Middle Age in prior to the beginning of the British Empire. 'Taydad' from Rani Bhabani Dayaram Roy etc are still in possession of his family. Perhaps that was the beginning, but in course of time this extended to a big Zemindary.

Suren Babu from his infancy had dedicated his life to that supreme art of music and has obtained mastery over

BABU SURENDRA MOHAN ACHARYYA

all sorts of musical instruments and earned the good name of musician. He cultures that supreme art when Bengalis in sorely need of it.

Only twelve years he has taken the management of the Zemindary in his own hand In this short period he tried his best to render his benificial hand for the good of his tenants and country. He always invites tenants to come to his place to relate their grievances freely and he is always of opinion that relationship between the tenant and the Zemindar to be a cordial one.

The aim of his life is to punish the wicked and to maintain the good in the work of his Zemindary This work often causes a good deal of trouble, but he always works according to his own principle undauntedly and courageously. He is in the habit of acceding to the just demand of the tenants but he is equally strong not to yield to any unjust and illegal claims, even at the risk of his own life.

At the beginning of 1921, when non-co-operation movement was started, tenants being fomented by some notorious persons demanded from his several illegal things which he denied and a very great troublesome agitition followed. The tenants at this time stopped payment of rents and went to such an extent that they besieged him with his family for fifteen days. He had to pass that period without food and outside help. It resembled the French revolution in its atrocities though not in motive. Consequently he had been compelled to leave the locality for several months together untill peace and order was restored. Tenants in general now have come to their senses. Report of this agitation was published in Government Reports.

He is an advocate of mass education and he always cherishes the idea that no good and noble work can be done without dispelling the darkness of ignorance.

He has established a school in his village for imparting primary education to the children and he is always ready to do his utmost for the welfare of the School. As for his own children he is trying to educate them in various departments and thus preserves the name, honour and tradition of his ancient family. It is his special hobby to remove the ban that the Zemaindars do neglect the studies of their children

He lives in a village and he is of opinion that agriculture is the best source to lead a village life He helps the tenants in furthering the cause of agriculture by lending seeds and money whoever in need of them The old method of cultivator is still in vogue in this part; which hinders the progress of cultivation in this changed circumstances and the climatic condition of the world. Though he has not yet been able to introduce the new method of cultivation which is undoubtedly very expensive, yet he is always in expectation of introducing the same in near future. With the help of friends, relatives and the District Board a Canal has been constructed through the village for the purpose of irrigation.

At present, he has a desire to establish a charitable dispensary with the aid of the Government He is an admirer of business line and very recently he has orgainsed a big 'Mela' (a fair) within the jurisdiction of his Zamindary. He expects very many things from this 'Mela' which is to be held every year in winter season His object is to give impetus to home industries and to improve the business facilited. He has also orgainsed a 'Hath' (market) which meets every saturday. Buyers and sellers without number meet together every occasion to transact business. He is a loyal supporter of the British Government During the British German War, he orgainsed a Theatre party at Krishnagar in order to help the War Relief Fund and by this, he was successful in contributing a very descent sum

Every year during the Puja celebrations, he generally distributes cloths to the poor and needy persons. He also gives small charities to those honourable and needy families, of 'Bhadralag' class who feel delicacy to beg freely from door to door and who are really the worst sufferers of the present day. The last but not the least he always keeps his eyes over religion the basis of man's character. As far as possible he helps the tenants in their religious works, indiscriminately of any cast or creed In short he thinks himself to be a people's man and custodian of their fund.

BABU RAMESH CHANDRA ACHARYYA CHOWDHURY.

ZEMINDAR OF MUKTAGACHA, MYMENSINGH.

IN the renowned and respectable Acharyya family of Muktagacha Zemindars, there lived a gentleman in the name of Ishan Chandra Acharyya Chowdhury, He died in the year 1889 without any male issue and consequently in the year 1891 his wife Srejukta Svarnamayi Debi Chowdhurani took Babu Ramesh Chandra Acharyya Chowdhury (the youngest son of Babu Mukunda Kishore Acharyya Chowdhury of the same family) as her adopted son Babu Ramesh Chandra Acharyya Chowdhury was born in the year 1879. He is now aged about 45. He is an upto date gentleman of a very good heart and liberal spirit, and also popular among his tenants. He is fond of reading books and papers regularly and has a very good taste in music. Of the fine arts he has an excellent hand in Violin and Clarionette. The income of his personal Estate is about Rs. 30,000. He has two sons and one daughter. His eldest son Khitish Chandra Acharyya Chowdhury has inherited an estate (the present income of which is about 70,000) from the time of his mother Sikharbashini Debi Chowdhurani

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BABU RAMESH CHANDRA ACHARYYA CHAUDHURY,
Zemindar of Muktagacha

BABU HIRAN MAY SEN, Born 1877
BABU MANI MOHAN SEN, Born 1872 (Sitting)

BABU SATIS CHUNDER GHOSE.

BABU Satis Chunder Ghose son of late Sir Chunder Ghose Kt., once an officiating chief justice of Calcutta High Court and grandson of late Rai Doorji Persad Ghose Bahadur. Babu Satis Chunder was born in the year 1866 and enrolled as a vakil of the Calcutta High Court in 1888 He had a lucrative practice which he gave up in 1920, being elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly as a representative of the Bengal Landholders Mr Ghose was exempted from the operation of the Arms Act being a 'Great Zemindar' of Bengal. He is a member of the British Indian Association, Calcutta and of the chelmsford club, Delhi.

BABUS MANI MOHAN AND HIRAN MAY SEN;

BABUS Mani Mohan Sen and Hiran May Sen are the sons of the late Babu Ram Das Sen Dr Litt, M R. A. S (Lond) Zamindar, Berhampore, whose reputation as an Indian Antiquarian extends as far as Europe and America They possess extensive landed properties in eight districts of Bengal. Their father's Library "the like of which is perhaps not to be seen in Bengal" To honour the memory of their illustrious father they have established a High English School "*Ram Das Sen High School*" in their Zemindary, situated in the jangipore sub division of the Murshidabad District. Their calcutta residence is known to the inhabitants of Northern Calcutta as "Dewanbari", for their ancestor kristo Kanta Sen who was Dewan to the Salt Board under the Hon'ble East India Company, during the latter part of the Eighteenth century, lived there. He dedicated a temple to the God *Radha Gobindji* at Berhampore, together with a property yielding an annual income of 4000 Rupees ; and founded a Sadabrata (Alms House for the poor) and a Dharamsala (rest House for travellers) at Berhampore which are still maintained by his descendants.

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